

Chester Library Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting, May 15, 2017
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1. Call to Order

The Chester Library Board of Trustees held its regular meeting on Monday, May 15, 2017, at the Chester Public Library, 21 W. Main Street, Chester, Connecticut. In attendance were Terry Schreiber, Deedee Prisloe, Denny Tovey and Karin Badger. Others present included Stephanie Romano (Library Director) and Cary Hull (President of The Friends). Chairman Schreiber called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

2. Secretary's Report

Motion by Prisloe, second by Tovey, to approve April 17, 2017 Minutes as written. Unanimously Approved.

3. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Prisloe distributed the Treasurer's Report for May 15, 2017. Balances in the checking and savings accounts were reviewed. **Motion by Tovey, second by Badger, to accept Treasurer's Report as presented. Unanimously Approved.**

Karin Badger asked if trees were going to be purchased with the Gloria Eustis Memorial Donations. Cary Hull stated The Friends would be doing that.

It was noted the Historical Society is doing exhibits on the Spencer Family Memorial and Judge Constance Motley. Any pictures or books would be welcome.

4. Update on Informational Meetings about new library

Chairman Schreiber noted the Informational Meetings were excellent, very well done. There was an amazing Power Point presentation. Deedee Prisloe agreed it was well done and drew one in. Chairman Schreiber noted she heard someone leaving saying they were very inspired for the Library. It was also suggested something be done at a PTO meeting as there weren't too many young people in attendance. Steven Tiezzi also talked about doing the presentation at a Planning & Zoning Meeting. Denny Tovey noted all boards and commissions should be targeted.

Karin Badger asked what happens now. Chairman Schreiber noted the Selectmen will meet to decide if it goes forward and then it goes to the Board of Finance. Denny Tovey noted he put together a schedule for the next 2½ years. Deedee Prisloe noted its important the BOS/BOF are not the people who decide if this goes forward. It should be the people of the Town. Tovey noted the BOF decides if it goes to

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referendum and then the people decide.

Chairman Schreiber noted in response to Karin Badger's letter, the expansion of the existing building should be put to bed. The efficiency of that space would only be 50%. The collection would remain the same. At North Quarter Park, the book collection would go up by 5000 with the grant.

Chairman Schreiber asked if it would be fiscally responsible to add on to the existing building and not get more than is currently there. Karin Badger stated it might be. This is a small town and there are libraries all over the place. Denny Tovey noted younger people need to get more involved and enthusiastic.

Karin Badger noted the Library should have applied for an Historic Preservation Grant. Chairman Schreiber noted the Library did that years ago and was told they could get \$50,000 for Preservation Funds. She also noted there were issues with the fact the Church owns the building and that was a problem with the Grant.

5. Update on Gwen Orton Jones Trust

Chairman Schreiber reported on the Gwen Orton Jones Trust. The income from the Trust will be distributed in June. The income has been distributed every year and was distributed last June. Last year it went to the Librarians and the Library.

Karin Badger noted the Trustee should be talking to the Board. Chairman Schreiber noted Anna Sweeney (Trustee) took over the Trust and did what had been done for the last 25 years. Attorney Klomp had written up what was done incorrectly and it took Ms. Sweeney awhile to figure it all out.

Chairman Schreiber noted it will not be handled that way any more. There will now be a committee consisting of all the Library Trustees, a representative from The Friends and a representative from the Selectmen. Ms. Sweeney will be an ex-officio member. The Library Board Trustees, the Friends and the Selectmen will all have voting rights and will oversee the spending of the Trust income. All or none of the income has to be spent. The Library Trustees, the Friends and Selectmen now make that decision. The money will be available by the end of June.

Karin Badger asked how much money was distributed last year. Chairman Schreiber replied that she didn't know. The Library got \$500 twice a year.

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Chairman Schreiber noted hopefully this has all been straightened out now. The intent was to give this to the Librarians, but Attorney Klomp wrote it up wrong. Karin Badger noted this whole thing was very murky and very questionable the way it was. Some of it could have gone for the Library itself.

Chairman Schreiber noted it is different now. The 6 Trustees, representatives from The Friends and the Selectmen will decide how the income of the Trust will be spent. Maybe some of it can stay in the kitty.

Denny Tovey asked who takes care of the investment. Chairman Schreiber noted it was Anna Sweeney with Essex Financial.

Chairman Schreiber noted at the appropriate time there will be a discussion, a vote and it will be a regular Agenda item. It was agreed this is now a good plan.

6. Update on Poetry Night

Poetry Night had a small turnout (about 20 people) but was good. Karin Badger noted it was unfortunate it was not better publicized. Deedee Prisløe noted it wasn't even in the Town Newsletter. Movie Night was publicized and there were only 3 in attendance. Chairman Schreiber noted the poets were good.

7. Fund Raising – nothing further to report at this time.

8. Eastham Public Library

Chairman Schreiber noted she recently visited the Eastham Public Library which is two floors (18,000 square feet). The addition is attached to the original building. They raised \$1,000,000. It was crowded in early May. They added a much needed community room and created space for children. They also used a green design. They have 7 full and 4 part time employees.

9. Audience of Citizens – no one was present.

10. Other – none.

11. Librarian's Report

Director Romano noted there will be a Tarantula Program on May 25th. The Summer

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Reading Kick-Off will be in June. Lots of things are planned. They will be teaming with Deep River Art Gallery to do arts and crafts on June 16th. They will also collect "Crayons for Cancer."

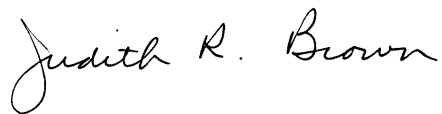
12. The Friends Report

Cary Hull noted the Book Sale will be June 9th. Leftover books will be taken downtown on Sunday for the Sunday Market to sell them. They received \$346.00 from the Essex Savings Bank. They are also looking into a space for the Gloria Eustis tree.

13. Adjournment

Motion by Prisloe, second by Tovey, to adjourn at 8:30 PM. Unanimously Approved.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith R. Brown".

Judith R. Brown, Recording Secretary