

The Brookfield Library  
Library Board of Trustees  
July 25, 2012

**Present:** Chris Landelius, Joanne Messer, John Voris, Elena Goletz, Kathie Schilling, Betsy McIlvaine, John Barbosa, Maizie Jaffe; Library Director Anita Barney; Dottie Miles, Committee for a New Library

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Betsy McIlvaine.

2. **Public Comment:** No members of the public were present.

3. **Approval of June 27, 2012 minutes:** A motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Chris Landelius and seconded by John Barbosa, and approved, with Betsy McIlvaine, John Barbosa and Kathie Schilling abstaining.

Minutes approved

4. **Additions to the agenda:** None

5. **Treasurer's Report:** We have realized a gain of approximately \$20,000.00 during the period 01/01/12 and 06/01/12. Treasurer's Report was distributed.

6. **Director's Report:** On Sunday, 7/29, there will be a Brazilian Jazz Concert at the library. This is the band which performed at the Brookfield Education Foundation dinner. The Summer Reading Program finale will feature a Folk Singer on August 4.

Some questions were raised about the success of the Summer Reading Program, which has not been as actively attended as in past years, according to the report submitted by the Children's Librarian.

7. **Old Business**

a. Space Planning – deferred until after the Summer Reading Program concludes.

b. Library Sign – The sign approved by the Historic District Commission costs \$5978, about \$2,000 more than the original quote, and \$978 more than approved at the previous board meeting. Many changes were required from the original design, including wrapping the sign and posts in Azek (a type of plastic that looks like wood) which requires no maintenance. John Voris made a motion to approve the funds needed to cover the total cost of the sign, seconded by Chris Landelius, but the motion was not carried due to disagreement with the cost required to meet Historic District demands. A letter will be sent to the Historic District with a copy to the News-Times, and signed by all members of the Board explaining our opinion that the cost to comply with Historic District requirements is exorbitant and not fiscally responsible. The Board will ask the Commission to agree to some compromise.

Expense for library sign **not** approved.

c. Town Facilities Planning Committee: The Committee plans to report to the Board of Selectmen in September. The final report is still in development. Projects being discussed include updates to Huckleberry Hill

Facilities Planning Committee to report to Selectmen in September.

Elementary School, a recreation center, and the new library.

x d. Four Corners Meeting Report: the final report will be presented at Town Hall on Thursday, 7/26, at 7:00 p.m. This presentation will be open to the public. There is a recommendation for a 10,000 sq. ft. "civic building" in the northwest quadrant of the Four Corners district (in front of the current bowling alley). This is referred to as either a library/community center or a theater. Anita Barney recommended combining the two recommendations into one four-story building (three floors above ground, one below). The report also looks at ways to increase community involvement in the project. The Facilities Planning Committee was assigned to examine issues around inclusion of civic space in the project, including investigating possible purchase of land. Per the First Selectman, the Committee's existence will be extended to accomplish these additional tasks. Members of the Facilities Planning Committee will meet with realtors to discuss the feasibility of acquiring land to support library location as an anchor to the Four Corners area.

The possibility of locating a small library satellite in Four Corners was suggested if it was decided not to locate the entire facility there. There is minimal to no support for this recommendation. There is also a possibility that a consultant be tasked with evaluating what the library of the future may look like. This may be an opportunity for the state library to update their materials regarding what changes may be projected for libraries going forward.

e. Library Cottage/Historic District Letter: The Historic District will not allow demolition of the cottage because it is a historic building. Their recommendation is refurbishment of the cottage for use by the library, for example as a place for story hour. Neither the Town nor the Library has funds to refurbish the building. Efforts to sell the property have not been successful. The Brookfield Theater for the Arts is not interested in taking ownership. Chris Landelius suggested we ask our insurance company to evaluate the safety of the cottage for use by library patrons. John Voris made a motion to have the First Selectman write a letter to the Historic Commission stating that neither the Town nor the Library will expend any money to refurbish the cottage and leave the situation in stasis until some future time when a resolution is feasible. Chris Landelius seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Board will send the letter to Bill Davidson ahead of the next Board of Selectmen meeting scheduled for 8/6/12. A member of the Board will attend the BoS meeting to defend the decision to not fund any improvement to the cottage. Ultimately, the goal would be to sell the property when the market is more favorable.

Four Corners plan recommends 10,000 sq.ft. "civic building."

Facilities Planning Committee to continue past report to Selectmen.

Historic District Commission refuses demolition of cottage at 186 Whisconier.

Motion: ask First Selectman to notify HDC that library and Town not willing to fund repairs/improvements to property.

Board member to attend BoS meeting regarding cottage.

**New Business**

Policy Review: Policy 405: Petitions: Chris Landelius reviewed the policy and recommended no change. John Voris made a motion to accept the policy as it stands and John Barbosa seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Policy 405: Petitions  
approved with no changes.

Monthly Statistical Reports: Usage is up in all areas of the library. The end-of-year financial statement received from the Finance Department shows the library has overspent the personnel line by \$16,000. Anita Barney feels this is not correct and is following up.

The next library board meeting will be 8/22. The September meeting will be held on 9/26, not 9/19 as originally scheduledp.

Elena Goletz made the motion to adjourn and Chris Landelius seconded.

Meeting notes submitted by  
Kathie Schilling