

Ridgefield Library Board
April 27, 2009

Present: Peter Authier; Melissa Buckwalter, Peter Coffin, (Chair); Barbara Dobbin; Lori Dowling; Thomas Hoban; Abigail Cahill Kagan; Mark Meachem, Brian Oren; Cloris Pearson; Beverley Rogers; Bruce Ruehl; Eileen Walker

Others present: Director Christina Nolan (ex-officio); Mary Rindfleisch, Assistant Library Director; Robert Leavitt, President, Friends of Ridgefield Library; Leslie Vuilleumier, Executive Assistant; Carroll Brewster, Emeritus

Excused: Robert Payne

Call to Order

Chairman Peter Coffin called the Board meeting to order on April 27, 2009 at 7:40 PM in the Dayton Program room of the Ridgefield Library.

Approval of Minutes

The March 23, 2009 Board minutes were approved as written.

Chairman's Announcements

Feedback about the Webster Bank – Articles still are appearing in the local papers. Since the last board meeting, the State recognized the Webster Bank building as an historic place. The Town has decided that the Library will appear before Planning & Zoning for a public hearing regarding the demolition of the Webster Bank building on May 5.

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda was approved. It included the Activity Report, the Development Committee Report and the Building Improvement Committee Report.

Director's Report

The Director's Report was not available for the meeting due to the death of Chris Nolan's mother.

Friends of the Library

The tents have arrived for the Friends' Book Sale starting May 1. The Dayton Program Room will house the children's books for the sale.

Development Committee

Nutmeg Author Talk – was held earlier this evening with Wendy Mass as the guest author. Frank Parisi from HSBC (this event's sponsor) was helping out and wanted to know if the Library would like to do more events like this one. It was suggested the Library give HSBC some business. A public thank you will be forthcoming.

Spring Social – List of invitees was circulated for members of the board to follow up on 8 – 10 people that have not called in an RSVP. The event starts at 6:30 PM. Board members should plan to arrive no later than 6:15 PM. A schedule will be available that evening for board members to serve as bartenders. The food is catered by Country

Caterers. A Tribute tri-fold should be ready in time for the event. Mary Rindfleisch will email it to the board members for final approval.

Annual Appeal – To date, the Library is \$100 away from their annual goal. The final piece of the appeal has not been mailed yet.

Finance Committee

Committee Member Peter Authier reported that the March Finance statements & Investments were not available to due the death of Molly McGeehin's father.

The Trash Contract was renewed. Some changes were made to the Limits of Authority (updated copies in Board packets).

The Finance Committee will continue to review the pension plan.

Tom Hoban sent a letter to Palinet, a Library Consulting Company concerning a Library Operations Review. He has requested several different versions of the services provided by Palinet.

Hearing on Webster Bank Building

Several library representatives met with Bob Jewel to discuss the position the Library will take at the May 5th Public Hearing with P&Z. People are prepared to speak on behalf of the Library. The Library's focus is the fiscal responsibility of the library and the demolition is the only topic being discussed that evening.

Nominating Committee

Tom Hoban reported there are four board members up for another term. At the next Board meeting, the slate of officers will be voted on. Eight candidates are under consideration for positions on the board for three members not returning and one additional opening bringing the total number to sixteen. After the vote, a new member orientation will take place.

Strategic Discussion on Building Improvement Committee

The committee has taken another look at the Underlying Goals & Values document prepared in December 2008. They foresee undertaking small projects and possibly a renovation project. By thinking out of the box, the Library's 55% program useable space could be increased with no exterior modifications.

Morris Legacy Society – A luncheon to honor the Inaugural Class at the Elms Restaurant on Sunday, June 14 will cost \$35 per person with a cash bar. The number of inductees has not been determined. The Elms would need a \$250 deposit to hold the room for 12-17 people. Mary Rindfleisch & Chris Nolan will prepare a list of invitees.

As there was no further business to discuss, the Library Board adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Recorded and respectfully submitted,
Leslie Vuilleumier
Executive Assistant