

North Haven Memorial Library  
Board Meeting  
March 20, 2008

Minutes

Attendance: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kaercher at 7:30 pm.

Present: Sarah Aziz, Lois Baldini, John Carlson, Patricia Dortenzio, Michael Fletcher, Raymond Fowler, John Graef, Phyllis Kaercher, Erin MacDonnell, Doreen Tomlan

Absent: Dorothy Mautte

R. Fowler was called upon to present former Board Chairman Graef with a plaque. The plaque honors J. Graef for his years of service as Board Chairman, and his contribution to the library and the community.

2. R. Fowler moved that the Minutes of the January 17<sup>th</sup> meeting be accepted. Seconded by J. Graef. All in favor.

3. J. Graef moved that the December Financial Statement with the omission of the extraneous figure of 537,706.37 be accepted. Seconded by D. Tomlan. All in favor.

J. Graef moved that the January Financial Statement be accepted. Seconded by M. Fletcher. All in favor.

4. Old Business: P. Kaercher reported that the Friends have committed \$5000 to the town wide reading program planned for next year.

5. New Business: a): Director's Report: L. Baldini reported on the budget presentation to the Board of Finance. The Board questioned the request for additional funds for the book account in light of the endowments the library has. The Director explained that these were memorial donations given for material in very specific areas. Finance Board members questioned whether the donors were ever approached for additional contributions. While most of the donors are deceased, approaching families for further donations has never been done. The consensus, as discussed by the Library Board, was that such requests would not be appropriate. P. Kaercher stated that legal advice regarding endowments was sought when the Library Association was preparing to turn control of the library over to the Town. The Association was cautioned to stay within the parameters of the endowment terms. The Director also explained the budgetary requests made relative to the library roof and LEAP. Word has yet to be received from the Board of Finance regarding the status of the budget.

The issue of summer hours was also discussed. The Director suggested paying overtime to full-time employees. The cost would be approximately \$2500.

5. New Business: a): Director's Report: We have had a resignation from one part-time employee. We have called an applicant, who has library experience, to come in for an interview.

A full complement of summer programs, including Picnic and Performance are being planned. Programs currently underway are going well.

The Friends book store is continuing its success. A friend of Bernadette Laubach has offered to create an eye catching design for the store entrance. She will only charge the cost of the materials. The Friends are also thinking of honoring library staff for their help with the bookstore. L. Baldini has received permission from Ed Gomeau, Acting Finance and Administrative Director, to donate our back-files of Life and Look magazines to the Friends to be sold.

The Director addressed the issue of the participation of the department heads in union negotiations. Their participation will be indirect; they will no longer sit in on negotiations. No decisions will be made without department head input. Contract negotiations for the librarians' union were already in progress. She has already responded to the sixteen proposals put forth. She would, however, prefer to be at the table to respond to issues immediately.

At last Board meeting, copies of library policies were distributed. In light of a request from an individual who wishes to display a flyer for a private school, it seems appropriate that the Display Policy be the first one reviewed. Board consensus at this point was to refrain from posting such notices. Sample policies from other libraries will be sent out to Board members. Discussion of the policy will take place prior to the start of the next Board meeting. Those Board members wishing to participate should arrive at 7 pm.

The public hearing on the budget will take place in early April. The budget will probably go to referendum.

6. New Business: b): Other Business: P. Kaercher reported that the adult programs sponsored by the Friends are doing well. R. Fowler praised the program on the architecture of New Haven, and complimented Reference Librarian Nancy Haag for her assistance in locating the information the library has on this subject. He also said that the Director and P. Kaercher's presentation to the Board of Finance was well done.

E. MacDonnell, who is on the task force for clean energy is trying to promote the library as the location to receive solar panels to help alleviate our electricity costs. J. Carlson has also made this suggestion to the First Selectman.

J. Graef expressed the belief that the problem with the library roof may be a masonry issue.

7. J. Carlson moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:45 pm. Seconded by D. Tomlan.  
All in favor