

North Haven Memorial Library
Board Meeting
September 18, 2008

Minutes

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

Present: Sarah Aziz, Lois Baldini, John Carlson, Patricia Dortenzio, Michael Fletcher, Raymond Fowler, John Graef, Phyllis Kaercher, Dorothy Mautte

Absent: Phyllis Kaercher, Erin MacDonnell, Doreen Tomlan

2. During the review of the Minutes of May 15th, R. Fowler presented a gavel for the Chairman's use, to Vice Chairman Graef. R. Fowler moved that the Minutes of the May 15th meeting be accepted. Seconded by J. Carlson. All in favor.
3. R. Fowler moved that the April Financial Statement be accepted. Seconded by D. Mautte. All in favor.
R. Fowler moved that the May Financial Statement be accepted. Seconded by J. Carlson. All in favor.
R. Fowler moved that the June Financial Statement be accepted. Seconded by M. Fletcher. All in favor.
R. Fowler asked if anything had been done about the library roof. L. Baldini said no. Mr. Fowler also asked about the status of LEAP, and D. Mautte asked about the effect of Orange's withdrawal from the group. L. Baldini replied that we stand at four (4) towns. Current member's expense has risen by \$9000. The group does not anticipate a significant increase for the coming fiscal year.
4. Old Business: None
5. New Business: a): Director's Report: The committee for the town-wide read hopes to make a selection by October 15th. The books under consideration are Three Cups of Tea by Mortenson, Water for Elephants by Gruen, and Five Quarters of the Orange by Harris. Another possibility discussed was The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Shaffer. However, the book chosen should be available in paperback, and this title will not be in this format until 2009.

5. New Business: a) Directors Report continued: D. Tomlan has resigned from the Board citing conflicts with school obligations.

All summer programs were a huge success. Over 1000 children participated in the summer reading program.

Union negotiations are continuing. The next session will be October 3rd.

Department heads are undergoing a classification and compensation study. The consultant engaged by the Town has prepared draft job descriptions, and the department heads were to respond and revise the description for the consultants review.

M. Fredericks, who worked in the Children's Department until last spring has passed away.

We have a part-time opening as the result of the resignation of a new hire. The position has been offered and we are awaiting a response from the candidate.

The David Mikes sculpture donated by Natalie Campbell, has been set in place. The original cost of the statue was \$3000.

L. Baldini commented on a letter to the North Haven Post from E. Muro. Mr. Muro complained about noise made by the library staff. A certain amount of "noise" is part of the normal activity of the main floor. The consensus was to not reply to the letter. Several members of the public have spoken to the staff in support of their work.

New computers for the public have been installed in the Adult and Children's Departments.

Saturday summer hours were successful. We checked out over 2200 items over the seven weeks, and had an average attendance of 180 per Saturday.

Following complaints from the public regarding AT&T's removal of our payphone, the Finance office has been asked to investigate payphone service from another provider.

5. New Business: a): Director's Report continued: Library circulation for FY 07/08 was 186,700 items. This represents a 15% increase over last year. Traditionally, in times of poor economy, library use increases.

The Friends used book store has raised \$10,600 since it opened in November, 2007. A grand reopening is planned for October 1st.

We are now offering audio books in a new format. Playaways feature a complete digital audio book on one small device. Powered by one AAA battery and using a standard headphone it eliminates the need to change cassettes and CDs.

We will begin a new service called "Book a Librarian". It will be offered by Reference Librarian Nancy Haag. It will allow patrons to sign up for a half hour session, one-on-one with Nancy. We will try this for one hour a week.

The North Haven Rotary has donated \$1000 to the library. The Rotary has donated over \$30,000 since the inception of the Job and Career Corner.

6. New Business: b): Other: R. Fowler suggested getting an external drive for the public computers which will allow users who have data stored on floppy discs to continue to access their discs. L. Baldini thinks that Bill Bennett, the Town's IT manager, may be planning to do so. R. Fowler also expressed the opinion that some of the problems encountered on our computers come from the questionable websites that teens visit. He suggested that we block these sites. L. Baldini stated that this is against traditional library policy and could even prevent us from getting state funding. J. Carlson said that this gets complicated with censorship issues.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for November. The Director may need to convene the Board prior to that meeting to discuss the FY 09/10 budget.

J. Carlson commented on the success of the Saturday summer hours. The Director will again ask for over-time for the full-time staff for the next fiscal year.

7. J. Carlson moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:15 pm. Seconded by D. Mautte. All in favor.