

MINUTES for June 13, 2017
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES
Falmouth Public Library Main Street
300 Main Street, Trustees' Room
Falmouth, MA 02540

Present: Trustees Lysbeth Abrams, Jerome Fanger, Judith Fenwick, Lindsay Hopewood, Kathleen Murray, Sylvia Szulkin, Marilyn Zacks, Library Director Linda Collins; guests: Len Miele, representative of the Friends of the Falmouth Public Library; Robert Ripley and Joe Netto, Chair and Director, respectively, of the Falmouth Public Library Support Fund, Inc., and Grant Walker, representative of the Falmouth Climate Action Team;

Absent: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Chair Lysbeth Abrams.

1. Report from the Friends of the Falmouth Public Library: Len Miele

June 12 was the last day for acceptance of donations for the Friends' summer book sale. The book sale will run from July 1 through July 6. On the last day, remaining books will be available at 5 for \$1.00. The Friends are looking for volunteers to work at the book sale. Zacks and Szulkin volunteered.

2. Report from Falmouth Public Library Support Fund Directors on a Proposed Children's Reading Garden at the East Falmouth Branch of the Falmouth Public Library.

Bob Ripley and Joe Netto, Directors of the Support Fund, made a presentation to the Library Trustees about a proposed plan to create a Children's Reading Garden on the right front lawn of the East Falmouth Public Library using funds raised by the Support Fund and donations of time, materials, ideas and physical labor from the neighborhood Village Association, Business Association, the Falmouth Department of Public Works and civic-minded residents from the larger Falmouth community. Ripley used a draft schematic of the reading garden, and a map of the entire library property and adjoining roads to help the Trustees visualize the plan. He referred to a letter from East Falmouth branch librarian Meg Borden explaining the need for the garden and a list of projected costs prepared by an East Falmouth landscaping firm. Netto reported on his meeting with the DPW director and staff regarding the timeline for the project, including completion of road and parking improvements adjacent to the library and preparation of the site for the garden. The timeline was distributed to the Trustees. Netto also summarized preliminary discussions of the project with officers of the East Falmouth Village Association. The project will be introduced to the East Falmouth community at the upcoming July annual meeting of the Village Association, provided that the Trustees approve use of the library property for the project. Ripley stressed the importance of keeping the community updated on the project, possibly through postings and flyers available inside the library.

There was discussion of potential fund-raising strategies, including selling walkway bricks dedicated to specific individuals and groups and a possible interior donor wall/plaque recognizing supporters of the project. Some of the Trustees noted that the installation of donor bricks at the renovated main library had proven troublesome. Fenwick suggested using the phrase "public-private partnership" in publicity for the project, possibly including a brochure.

Following the presentation and discussion, Zacks moved that the Board approve parts I and II of the timeline with the intention of working towards a children's reading garden at the East Falmouth branch in a public-

private partnership. The motion was seconded by Fanger and unanimously approved. Following the vote Ripley and Netto left the meeting.

3. Request for Use of Library Grounds

Grant Walker appeared on behalf of the Falmouth Climate Action Team (FCAT) to request use of the front lawn of the main library on June 17, 2017 from 1 -3 p.m. during the Arts Alive festival. FCAT would set up a tent and table and bring one or two goats to illustrate goatscaping as an alternative to pesticides and fossil fuels for controlling certain kinds of vegetation. The goats would be controlled by their owner and all droppings picked up and removed.

The Trustees obtained assurances from Mr. Walker that the goats would be contained in a pen, that an appropriate liability policy would be obtained and that the goat owner would not promote her business during the demonstration. Murray then moved approval of FCAT's request contingent on receipt of a signed liability policy. The motion was seconded by Hopewood and unanimously approved.

4. Minutes: Sylvia Szulkin

May 9, 2017 Minutes: On a motion by Murray seconded by Fenwick, the Minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

5. Correspondence: Lysbeth Abrams

Reference librarian Kasia Piasecka has requested \$50.00 for the non-member registration fee to attend the Northeast Booksellers Association meeting titled "All About Books." On a motion by Szulkin seconded by Fanger the Board approved the requested funds.

6. Report from Nominating Committee: Lysbeth Abrams

The Nominating Committee met earlier today to prepare a recommended slate of officers for the period June 13, 2017 through June 12, 2018. The Nominating Committee had voted to recommend creating a new position of corresponding secretary to handle the large volume of correspondence, particularly with donors. The following slate was recommended to the Board by the Nominating Committee:

Chair: Lysbeth Abrams
Vice Chair: Marilyn Zacks
Treasurer: Jerome Fanger
Recording Secretary: Lindsay Hopewood
Recording Secretary for Executive Sessions: Sylvia Szulkin
Corresponding Secretary: Judith Fenwick

On a motion by Zacks seconded by Szulkin, the slate was unanimously accepted by the Board.

6. Directors Report: Linda Collins, Library Director and Acting Assistant Director

(a) North Falmouth branch update: A new building/expansion site on the North Falmouth branch grounds has been identified that would not disturb the Indian burial ground. The archaeologist has stated that the ground

will not need to be scraped at the newly-identified site, but that test holes will be drilled to confirm earlier findings. Collins asked for approval from the Board to use the remaining grant money for a building schematic by architect Stephen Hale. There was consensus from the Board affirming its original support of the design grant. Collins stated that actual construction would not likely begin until 2024.

(b) Space use in main building: Space needs have changed in the ten years since completion of the renovation and expansion of the main building. Collins identified the following needs: additional comfortable seating, pruning of the reference collection, additional space for "tweens," more tutoring space and better use of space in the periodical room. Collins asked the Trustees to approve the hiring of a non-librarian space consultant. By consensus the Trustees authorized Collins to investigate the cost of such a consultant.

(c) Front lawn landscaping: Collins walked the library grounds with Rocky Gomes of the DPW. Gomes noted that the two oversized Leland cypresses near the front entrance do not enhance the grounds but could be sold and replaced with more attractive trees or bushes. By consensus, the Trustees authorized Collins to ask Gomes to further pursue sale of the cypresses.

7. Treasurer's Report: Jerome Fanger

(a) Fanger reviewed balances, deposits and withdrawals.

(b) Murray asked Fanger to provide an end-of-fiscal year report.

(c) Library supporter Anthony Keefer has donated a sum to provide treats for the library staff.

(d) Lori Evans, an investment advisor from Eastern Bank, will meet with members of the Resource Committee on June 20 at 10 a.m. in the Trustees Room. All of the Trustees are welcome to attend.

On a motion by Abrams seconded by Szulkin, the Board unanimously approved the Treasurer's Report for filing as presented.

8. Chair's Report: Lysbeth Abrams

(a) Abrams distributed a Trustees' Pocket Guide to each member of the Board as well as a packet of documents pertaining to the Trustees' authority under statutes and bylaws.

(b) Abrams asked the Trustees to consider how to handle the Junior Book Awards next year, including the cost of the awards and the retail source for the purchases.

(c) Abrams asked Zacks to provide verbiage for an introductory announcement about the funding of programs to precede every program.

(d) Murray has asked to step down as liaison with the Friends after several years in that position. Abrams asked that the Trustees attend Friends' meetings on a rotating basis. The Friends meet on the third Tuesday of every month.

The following schedule was established:

August: Szulkin

September: Hopewood

October: Zacks

November: Abrams

(e) Trustee representative to Support Fund: On a motion by Abrams seconded by Murray, Fenwick was nominated to replace Hopewood as one of the Trustee representatives to the Falmouth Public Library Support Fund, Inc. The motion was unanimously approved.

(f) The next Board meeting will take place on Tuesday, July 11 at 6 p.m. at the NORTH FALMOUTH BRANCH. The August 8 monthly Board meeting will be held in the EAST FALMOUTH BRANCH.

Abrams stated that henceforward the schedule of Board meetings will be entered on the Library website.

(g) Szulkin asked that the Board receive an update on the Temple of Flora folio at the next meeting.

9. Committee Reports

(a) Buildings and Grounds Committee: Lindsay Hopewood

Nothing new to report.

(b) Resource Committee: Jerome Fanger

(See Treasurer's Report.) A typo in the Trustees' budget has been corrected.

(c) Policy

Committee: Nothing new to report

On a motion by Fanger seconded by Szulkin, the Board unanimously decided by voice vote to adjourn the open session and move into executive session pursuant to M.G. L. Chapter 30A, sec. 23(a)(3) to discuss litigation strategy since an open discussion would compromise the Board's litigating position. The voice vote was as follows: Abrams: AYE; Murray: AYE; Fenwick: AYE; Hopewood: AYE; Szulkin: AYE; Zacks: AYE; Fanger: AYE. Abrams announced that the meeting would not return to open session.

The open meeting concluded at 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia L. Szulkin, Board Secretary