



Beaman Memorial Public Library
8 Newton Street, West Boylston MA 01583
www.beamanlibrary.org
508-835-3711

BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEE MEETING

Special Meeting August 7, 2007

PRESENT: Whitney Barnard, Irene Woods, Louise Howland, Elizabeth Witkowicz, Sue Bream, Pauline McCormick, Anne Parsons Marchant

GUESTS PRESENT: Amy Cornelius, Heather Feland and Sandy Meindersma

A thank you card received from L. Howland in thanks for tributes to her mother was circulated.

Recent donations as detailed on the agenda were reviewed. Of note was the lemonade stand of the Hamel and Frechette families that contributed to the "Adopt a Magazine" program.

STATE FUNDING: Funding for each of the regional systems has been reduced by approximately \$8,600. L. Howland is to meet with the regional coordinator this month to explore the implications of this reduction. 65 state waivers will be available. Waiver applications are due in mid October with the determination meeting scheduled for 1-3-08. L. Howland will be meeting with the Town Administrator shortly to prepare the Beaman waiver application.

GRANTS: Two grants have been awarded: 1) Equal Access (\$5,000) toward staff training and programs/materials targeted for teens and those over age 55 and 2) Mother Goose on the Loose (\$7,500) will provide programming for infants and caretakers. Staffing levels have decreased since these grant applications were submitted.

PUBLIC SUPPORT CAMPAIGN EVENTS: L. Howland circulated the Beaman Browser article prepared to "kick off" community support. It includes the American Library Association's website: www.ilovelibraries.org. Strategies to promote public awareness/support ensued with an emphasis on promoting town cohesion:

PUBLIC AWARENESS STRATEGIES DISCUSSED:

- Expand distribution of library publications/flyers
- Expand use of library meeting space by town boards/committees with goal of further expanding use of meeting space to more varied groups.
- Consider hosting a moderated forum for townspeople to discuss what makes West Boylston "My Kind of Town" (modeled on the "Worcester Way").
- Combine efforts with other groups to promote the library as the "Heart of the Town".
- "Know your Library" coffees.
- Door to door conversations.
- Afternoon teas at the library.
- Nursery school events.



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- PTA events.
- 55 + housing events.
- Library promotion as part of the Bicentennial celebration
- Senior citizen events.

CITIZENS' ADVOCACY COMMITTEE: Joanne Dunn, Amy Cornelius, and Heather Feland have formed a library advocacy group. They have prepared a letter for Trustee review for distribution to citizens of the town seeking support for the library. The letter will be emailed to Trustees and trustee feedback is to be forwarded to L. Howland by Friday Aug 10. Distribution of the letter was discussed including use of email, support of the Friends in mailing hard copy, posting on the library website, and the upcoming ice cream social. The ice cream social might also provide opportunity for those attending to email messages of support from the library.

L. Howland recommended the campaign to promote community support to begin immediately. Follow up and further planning to be discussed at the September meeting of the Trustees.

ACTION ITEMS:

- A. Parsons Marchant will plan support strategies for town nursery schools.
- S. Bream will plan support strategies for senior citizens.
- I. Woods will plan support strategies for 55+ housing at Hillside Village and Angell Brook.
- The ice cream social is scheduled for Wednesday August 15 with set up at 5:30 and social opening at 6:00.

STAFFING: L Howland expressed deep appreciation for the manner in which library staff has addressed the increased activity of summer despite reduced staffing levels. L. Howland would like to add a new staff member to cover Tuesday afternoon, Thursday afternoon and one Saturday a month to total 9 hours per week. This position would offset but not replace the 20 hour position lost in the spring. A motion was made by W. Barnard and seconded by S. Bream to authorize hiring of an additional staff member for 9 hours per week. The motion passed unanimously. Tuesday morning and Friday afternoons will continue to be covered by volunteers. P. McCormick made a motion to utilize the letters prepared by the Citizens' Advocacy Group pending trustee approval of the letters. The motion, seconded by S. Bream, was passed unanimously. S. Bream suggested the library may be an appropriate internship site for the High School internship program.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Parsons Marchant
Secretary