

**TRUMBULL LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES**

January 11, 2012

Trumbull Library

Members Present: Chairwoman Tara Liskov, Vice Chairman James Cebulski, Joan Hammill, Arthur A. Kukla, John J. Lauria, Carol Porrata Elstein, Jeannine Stauder, Mary Whatley

Members Absent: Anthony Petitti

Also Present: Susan J. Horton, Library Director, Joanne Orenstein, Clerk; John Ponzio, Treasurer, Town of Trumbull; Shelley Hall, Alissa Heilbrunn and Jean Rabinow, Friends of the Trumbull Library

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Chairwoman Liskov.

Public Session: The “Friends” were present, as well as Town Treasurer John Ponzio, to discuss the fate of the storage pod in the parking lot. The 16x8 foot pod holds 128 square feet of books and boxes. The shed is full and used year-round. Due to the growth of the book sales, the Friends need a storage facility equivalent to, or bigger than the pod. The Town has said the pod must go. The Friends offered 2 alternatives: using the space in the back of the Library, which would be an unlikely challenge, and getting another shed, next to the other one. [Adding onto the existing shed, a suggestion of the Board was also an acceptable alternative.] Ms. Heilbrunn said they cannot have anything off-site (i.e.: across the street at the Town Hall extension) because the volunteers are kids and it is not safe for them to cross Church Hill Road, and it is too strenuous for the older volunteers. 2000 to 4000 books are sold at the annual book sales and they routinely put out 15,000 volumes. After the big book sale, 20 - 25 boxes of books are put out monthly. The stuff saved in the pod is for annual sales, and is non-fiction, while fiction and children’s books are stored in the shed. Ms. Heilbrunn and Ms. Hall do all the pricing, sorting and hauling weekly. Unsalable books are dumped. They also donate books to the Bridgeport Correctional Department and children’s’ books to Health Services. The mission of the Friends is to support the Trumbull Library. They are a 501c3 organization. The last shed cost \$40,000, including the building and the labor. This time around, they will cover whatever the cost, though the Town will do site work.

Mr. Ponzio said the Town has never doubted the value of the Friends. The Town does not feel it is the Town’s responsibility to run the Library – that is the Board’s responsibility. The Pod cannot stay: it is a visual hazard for the police and a nuisance for the Department of Public Works to plow around. He said the alternatives the Town offered were as follows: space at the Public Works Garage, across the street at the Recreation Department, and on the Library property. Mr. Ponzio asked for a resolution from the Board. If buying another shed is the answer, the Town will do Site work, but he would like other options to be explored. The Friends noted that nothing more could be added onto the Library loading dock, as structurally it cannot take any more weight. Mr. Cebulski added that the Fire Marshal will not allow for storage under the Stage.

Correspondence: None.

Minutes: Mr. Kukla made a motion to accept the Minutes of December 14, 2011, and Mr. Lauria seconded. **VOTE:** One abstention, all others in favor, motion passed.

Director's Report: Ms. Horton had no comments on her report. The Library locks were not changed; the Board suggested just changing the locks on Ms. Horton's door. Information on restricted funds is in a report.

Treasurer's Report: Mr. Petitti was not present. Ms. Horton went over the report on restricted funds. They are losing \$10,000 each year in DVD rentals. Of the \$22,000 available from this fund, \$15,000 is allocated "parking lot" money. The State Connecticut funds have gone down every year, by 30% this year, and are spent on Library programming and general library purposes; all \$11,000 is allocated at this time. The Mallett fund funds are useable in flexible ways, the Library has used it in ways to make sure the family gets recognition, and the Mallett family has been very pleased. \$5K is set aside for One Book/One Town. Mr. Kukla suggested accelerating the spending from the restricted funds on books.

Fairchild-Nichols Branch: Ms. Whatley reported there was no December meeting.

Nominating Committee: Ms. Hammill presented the following slate of Officers for vote:

Tara Liskov – Chair

Jeannine Stauder – Vice Chair

Anthony Petitti – Treasurer.

Mr. Petitti accepted the nomination to continue as Treasurer providing Mr. Cebulski's agreement to cover for him when he is away. The attendance requirement for Trustees is 75%, so 4 meetings can be missed.

Ms. Whatley made a motion to accept the slate as presented, Mr. Cebulski seconded. **VOTE:** All in favor.

Old Business:

Parking Lot: Mr. Cebulski stated the Town brought the drawings to the Engineering Dept., which will take about 3 days. Mr. Marsilio has said he will do whatever is needed to be done. The drawings will be presented at the next meeting.

Budget: Ms. Horton said the Town is concerned because they are beginning to pay the debt service on the High School. She is presenting her budget request to the Town on January 23rd.

New Business:

Ms. Horton presented a memo from Mary Rogers requesting the Board pay her attendance at a May conference in San Diego. \$1550 covers the cost of registration, hotel, airfare and food. Ms.

Stauder made a motion to approve the request, Ms. Porrata Elstein seconded. **VOTE:** All in favor.

Friends' Pod: There was much discussion. The Board felt it was the best option to add onto the existing shed. The pod can be moved onto Library property or across the street in the interim. Ms. Porrata Elstein thought the reason the pod was in the parking lot in the first place was because it needed a cement platform, thus requiring the move across the street – the company will be contacted to determine that. Ms. Porrata Elstein made the motion to add onto the existing structure and move the Pod in the meantime. Ms. Whatley seconded the motion. **VOTE:** All in favor.

Adjournment: Mr. Lauria made the motion to adjourn, Mr. Kukla seconded. **VOTE:** All in favor at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Joanne Glasser Orenstein
Clerk

Approved:

Tara Liskov, Chairman
Trumbull Library Board of Trustees

The next meeting of the Trumbull Library Board of Trustees will be Wednesday, February 8th at 7pm.