

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF MEETING 5/17/01

PRESENT:

Dave Redgrave, Chair
Ed Hazlett, Trustee
Donald Ford, Trustee
Stephen Dalton, Trustee
Jack Meehan, Trustee
Ann Gutting, Asst. Dir/Ref. Lib.

Meeting called to order at 6:40 P.M.

Warrants are passed around for the bills to be signed.

Acceptance of minutes is rejected by Mr. Meehan due to the fact he did not hear the first part of the minutes of last month under Directors Report and he requests a brief closed session to address a serious concern. Mr. Dalton proposes to defer acceptance of minutes until next meeting so Mr. Meehan can clarify his thoughts about them. 2nd by Mr. Hazlett.

Mr. Hazlett motions to reaffirm the votes of April's meeting. 2nd by Mr. Meehan. Vote unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS (ELECTIONS):

Mr. Hazlett nominates Mr. Dalton as Chair and Mr. Redgrave as Vice Chair in the event Mr. Dalton cannot attend meetings. 2nd by Mr. Meehan. Mr. Redgrave states that he is grateful for everything and everyone who has helped him do his best for the Library and that this is a good time for him to step aside as Chair. He also reassures the Board that the Director will be back for Town Meeting and the Budget. Mr. Dalton says he appreciates the nomination and is willing to serve as Chair and a Vice Chair would be a prudent step for the good of the Library as his work has him all over. Vote for Mr. Dalton as Chair unanimous. Mr. Hazlett nominates Mr. Redgrave as Vice Chair. Mr. Meehan nominates Mr. Ford as Vice Chair. Mr. Ford declines. Mr. Ford 2nds the vote for Mr. Redgrave as Vice Chair. Mr. Meehan votes negative. Voted 3-1 in favor of Mr. Redgrave as Vice Chair by Mr. Dalton, Mr. Ford and Mr. Hazlett.

Mr. Redgrave asks Ms. Gutting to notify the Town Clerk and the Board of Library Commissioners of this vote and to send a copy of Town Clerk's letter to Dave Hubbard. Mr. Ford motions to have Mr. Meehan serve as Secretary to the Board. 2nd by Mr. Hazlett. Vote unanimous. Mr. Hazlett motions an accommodation for Mr. Redgrave for exemplary service on behalf of the Library over these past years. 2nd by Mr. Meehan. Vote unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS (FY2002 BUDGET):

Ms. Gutting give a brief overview of the handout and states that there is an interesting contrast between the recommendations of the Selectmen, which were read, and the Advisory Committee. She attended the 4/26/01 meeting of the Advisory Committee. At that time, final recommendations were unknown. Mr. Hazlett suggests to table further discussion of this until next meeting. 2nd by Mr. Redgrave.

BLD. & GROUNDS:

Ms. Gutting says that arrangements are being made to move back to the Magazine Room, and that the Tree Committee has planted a dogwood tree out front of the Library for their Arbor Day project. Mr. Meehan states he has contacted Pat Sullivan of Century 21 and they are donating the money for the flowers out front of the Library. He says that the staff and volunteers will do the planting Sunday 5/20/01 around 10:30 A.M. Mr. Dalton asks Mr. Meehan to draft a letter of thanks to Ms. Maurici who was instrumental in having the Tree Committee plant the dogwood tree and for him to bring it to next meeting for him to sign.

OPERATING PROCEDURES PROPOSAL:

Mr. Meehan motions for the Board to adopt a set of their own written by-laws. Mr. Hazlett suggest Mr. Meehan put his 5 motions in writing and at the next meeting he will motion to form a study and report back so the Board can have a legitimate vote on them. He states that the Library doesn't want to conflict the Town by-laws but that they could be enhanced. Mr. Dalton suggests Mr. Meehan read them but table them until next meeting. Mr. Meehan states the 5 motions are: 1.) Minutes 2.) Duties of Officers 3.) Form standing committees for Personnel, Public Relations and Fund Raising 4.) Evaluation of the overall progress of Library programming, performance of the Director, self evaluation of the Board of Trustees 5.) Childrens' room and Technical Services room. He states he would also establish communications and a chapter of Friends of the Library.

Date of next meeting is tentatively set for Thursday, June 7, 2001 at 6:30 P.M. with and alternate date of Thursday, June 21 at 6:30 P.M. should Town Meeting coincide. Mr. Hazlett then excuses himself for a Board of Selectman meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resignation of Phyllis Greene: Mr. Redgrave wants to make a presentation to her for all of her years of service to the Library. He says that it doesn't have to be formal and if she can't make it here then they could go to where she resides. Mr. Ford asks if we could make her an honorary Trustee. Mr. Redgrave states that he did check into it and yes, we can.

Mr. Meehan states he wants an Executive Session called. Mr. Dalton wants to see the Town by-laws to see what protocol is because they preempt MBLC Trustee handbook. Ms. Gutting leaves to see if she can find the by-laws. Mr. Meehan states he is willing to discuss in open forum if Ms. Gutting cannot locate the by-laws. Ms. Gutting returns without them. Mr. Redgrave looks in his papers and gives Mr. Dalton a copy of "Mass Open Meetings Laws". Mr. Dalton reads them and asks Mr. Meehan if this has anything to do with the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health of any person on staff since he hasn't stated the reason for

executive session. Mr. Meehan replies that it pertains to himself as a Trustee. Mr. Dalton asks him if it calls into question anything about a staff member at the Library that could be construed as commenting on character, physical condition, reputation or mental health. Mr. Meehan states that it does. Mr. Dalton asks if the person in question is present. Mr. Meehan says no. Mr. Dalton states that he feels the Board would be in violation if there is any discussion. There must be 48 hour notice to that individual prior to executive session and he then reads the paragraph from the "Open Meeting Law". Mr. Meehan states he will make his comments to the Board as a follow up to the minutes of the last meeting. He says that he wants to simply comment on the former Chair's comments in the Director's Report last month. He states the comments are injurious to me and not to anyone else. Mr. Dalton says that without 48 hour notice and without the person being there then the Board cannot go into executive session so Mr. Meehan may proceed cautiously. Mr. Meehan says that he hasn't had good communications in the past with the old Chair and the Director and he has a problem with the part in the Director's Report of 4/26/01 regarding the letter of harassment written by the Director. Mr. Dalton says that the minutes haven't been accepted as of yet and that the Director will be here next meeting. He says that they will go back and reconsider them at that time. Mr. Dalton tells Mr. Meehan if he wants to give enough advance notice and move this discussion into an executive session at another time that would be fine. Mr. Meehan states what concerns him is that he is trying to do the best job he can but things are moving out of control and he is concerned for the Library. Mr. Dalton tells him to stop discussion until the Director is here. Mr. Ford suggest having an executive session and eliminating things from leaving the Library. Mr. Dalton says he will discuss with the Director about putting an agenda together for an executive session.

Mr. Redgrave nominates Pam Corrado to join the Board. He says he feels she has gone the extra mile for the Library while employed there and not employed there. Mr. Ford states he also elicited a candidate. He is a former English Professor at Boston State and is a fine individual. Mr. Ford nominates Richard Tirrell. He states that he will ask Mr. Tirrell to write a letter to the Board. Mr. Dalton wants to discuss the nominations and proceedings at the next Board meeting. Mr. Redgrave withdraws his nomination until the next meeting.

Mr. Ford asks if anyone has looked into the mold. Ms. Gutting replies yes, Gina Wilder and an engineer have been over several times but that she hasn't received a report or heard anything about it yet. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Redgrave motions to adjourn. Mr. Ford 2nds. Vote unanimous at 7:58 P.M.

As transcribed from tape by Barbara Clarke