

Board of Library Trustee
Minutes for October 22, 1997

Attendance:

David Redgrave, Chair
Marjorie Hill-Devine, Director
Ben Reynders, Assistant Director
Steven Dalton, Trustee
Phyllis Greene, Trustee
Philip Halloran, Trustee
Mary Ann Ulrich, Trustee
Interested members of the public

Meeting was called to order at 6:45
Bills were signed until 7:00

At 7:00 Steven Dalton motioned that a library employee be hired to take notes and produce minutes for each trustee meeting, seconded by Phil Halloran. Voted unanimous.

Old Business:

A. Director's Salary and Job Description:

There was an expression of disappointment by Steven Dalton and Phyllis Greene that there was no reply from the selectmen regarding the reclassification of the director's job.

There was a discussion and review of the job description as presented. There will be further consideration regarding a permanent description. A vote will be taken on the November 6, 1997 meeting.

B. Fund Raising:

It was reported that to date \$3300. had been raised. There is a possibility that there will be additional funds from the Friends.

New Business:

A. Noble Report:

Winthrop's assessment is up a small amount \$1,051. In order to upgrade 8 PC's, it will cost @ \$23-23,000. There was a further discussion of the Noble update and the action plan for FY 99.

Motion to accept the Action Plan for FY99 by M. Ulrich, seconded by P. Halloran. Voted unanimous.

B. Library Museum:

The Director presented to the Trustees and interested citizens a review of the work done for the care and preservation of the materials in the Library/Museum. There was a discussion of the Museum Action Plan. All of these documents are available for the public to read. A discussion followed about the inability to operate the museum on volunteer help. A question was raised if the library should be in the

Board of Library Trustee
Minutes for October 22, 1997

museum business. The care and preservation of materials is expensive. S. Dalton remarked that there is a need to hire a qualified person to handle the collection. There are a variety of ways of protecting the collection. The preservation of materials should not just be a response to deterioration. Decisions need to be made by a trained, responsible preservationist. There is a need to have a coordinated effort. P. Halloran emphasized the need to have an expert to preserve and keep the materials. After further discussion by the Trustees, Chairman Redgrave opened the meeting to comments from the public in attendance.

Mrs. Hinckley questioned if the library can do all that it is asked of them. There may be a correlation of the materials available and the amount of research that can be done. She asked if it was possible to put this on the Internet.

The Trustees responded that most of the materials were not classified and the process would be lengthy. Therefore at this point things could not be available to be placed on the Internet.

George DeSaulniers of the Historical Association questioned how much of the material was outside the flag room.

S. Dalton replied that there were some materials contained in cubby holes, but for security most materials were in the flag room.

G. DeSaulniers talked about the importance of the history of Winthrop contained in these materials and asked if the school department had been approached for help in the developing of a classroom curriculum program. He also suggested that there may be some money in the school department to help this along.

S. Dalton replied that there was an access question. That a change in personnel has caused a problem with the learning curb in trying to find out what is in these materials.

G. DeSaulniers questioned can we tap the school department for money by a contact to the school department from the trustees.

P. Halloran responded maybe with a curriculum. As is always the way with two departments involved there would be a question as to who is going to pay for this.

G. DeSaulniers continued have they been approached? A general discussion followed about the use of Winthrop history in the schools.

Dave Hubbard responded that he has acted as a guest speaker in the schools about local history and government. He remarked that this has always been supported by the schools.

Board of Library Trustee
Minutes for October 22, 1997

Richard Ferrino of the Historic Commission and Senator's Travaglini's office remarked that he has tried to help. He was here to say that he hoped that the materials would not be lost to an outside source. He would ask that all would be done to save the materials and keep them in Winthrop. Perhaps they could be put into a trust at the Essex Museum as a last ditch effort to save the materials. He suggested that he hasn't seen that much of an effort at Town Meeting to get a paid position.

D. Redgrave responded that we have made many efforts to hire for around \$11,000 as a part-time position. Our idea was to try to get someone interested in training while studying to fill this position. We tried for a full-time person then it was dropped to a part-time request.

D. Hubbard remarked that he didn't think it was much asking for \$11,000 at town meeting. He suggested that maybe we should start with an outside article.

There followed a discussion of the various ways of approaching the personnel board, town meeting and articles. There could be a combination article, from the trustees, the public, the historical societies, and the personnel board. There was support from those in attendance for this position.

A general discussion was had regarding the importance of this material not only to Winthrop but to the general public beyond the boundaries of the Town of Winthrop. It was agreed to that the materials should be kept in Winthrop and that the goal is to eventually provide access to these materials. There was mention of the Native American material found at Ingleside Park. There was a request from a member of a local tribe to notify them if any Native American materials were to be disposed of. Please contact Jacqueline A. Emerton, 44 Sycamore St., Somerville, MA, 02143; President of the Intertribal Council of Tobil Menahan, (617) 623-7302.

New Business:

There was a discussion of a letter sent to Nick Basso requesting technical assistance for the 31 pieces of equipment in the library.

There was a discussion of a need for a Technology Plan.

There was a motion by M. Ulrich and seconded by S. Dalton to set the hours of the day before Thanksgiving to 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., and to close the Library on Friday, December 26, and Saturday, December 27, pending union approval. Vote was unanimous.

Motion to adjourn at 10:00 by D. Redgrave seconded by S. Dalton. Vote unanimous.