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Cc:

SIMSBURY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Monday, January 4, 2010

THESE MINUTES HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE LIBRARY BOARD

PRESENT: Charmaine Glew, Anne Erickson, Bert Kaplan, Joy Himmelfarb, Marianne O'Neil, Diane Madigan, Gail Ryan and Jeff Blumenthal. Susan Bullock, Director, Eileen Sickinger, Recording Secretary.  
Public Audience: Moira Werthheimer, Board of Selectmen Liaison and Rich Sawitzke, Town Engineer.

Mrs. Glew, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. B. Kaplan moved the minutes of the December 14, 2009 meeting be approved with the following corrections: correct spelling: Mrs. Himmelfarb. Kindle's will be checked out for a one week period. Second: D. Madigan. The minutes were accepted as amended.

Mrs. Werthheimer was introduced as the new liaison from the Board of Selectmen. She mentioned that on more than one occasion the question of security tapes on Library materials has come up at Board of Selectmen meetings. This will be discussed at the next meeting. Mrs. Bullock did state that the new system being introduced will eventually have a security system.

There were no additional agenda items but Mrs. Glew requested a change in the agenda so that Mr. Sawitzke could be first followed by the budget discussion.

Mr. Sawitzke addressed the subject of having a walkway/driveway between the Library parking lot to Boy Scout Hall. This is a discussion that has been ongoing since 2001. He shared drawings of both a pedestrian walkway and a driveway. Discussions would include First Church since their cooperation would be essential to the completion of the project. It would be a benefit to both groups giving each additional parking spaces as well as greater safety with all the parking on this side of Hopmeadow Street. Entrances and exits from the proposed area were also discussed. Tree clearing would have to be done - how many trees would depend on the size of the project. Three options that were reviewed were a two-lane driveway - 22 feet wide, a single lane road, or a pedestrian walkway. Funding for the project is a concern but Mr. Sawitzke felt there was some money left over from the

construction project and he will find out what funding is available. The pond discussed at the last meeting could be part of the project. Options of the type of materials and styles used were mentioned.

To start, Mr. Sawitzke will find out what funding is available and then a decision will have to be made on whether the roadway would be pedestrian, or a one- or two-lane driveway and how many parking spaces would be added. It was the consensus of the Board that they are in favor of doing something when the cost is known. The cooperation of First Church and the proposed pond would all enter into the picture.

Regarding the building, Mr. Sawitzke was asked about two builders being considered to do the reconfiguration of the staff room. He was familiar with both and will contact them and have them get in touch with Mr. Cutler. The outdoor sign is still not resolved and Mr. Sawitzke will continue to try to contact the State DOT to resolve the issue.

BUDGET 2010-2011: Mrs. Bullock shared a memo from Kevin Kane to all department heads regarding the 2010-2011 budget. In it he stressed the economic factors facing the community and the negotiated items that will influence this budget. It has not been determined if the Board of Finance will set a spending increase or a zero spending increase. Mrs. Bullock explained the process of budget preparation and presented an option that had no reduction in hours or staff cuts. It was the consensus of the Board that the community needs to be aware of the necessity of a low budget in tough times while every effort will be made to keep as many services available as possible. While the possibility of a decrease in services is undesirable it may be necessary, and the impact of these cuts must be explained. During the budget process every effort will be made to explain how any changes in the Library's budget could affect the community.

J. Blumenthal moved that the Library Board go in with a 0% spending increase, but also show which items would be cut with a 1.25% decrease, if required. Second: B. Kaplan. So moved.

REPORTS: Friends did not have a report. The Building report was discussed with Mr. Sawitzke. There were no reports on Personnel, Landscaping and Parking.

Decorating: Tables and chairs for the new staff room, if approved, can be ordered and the funds will come from Friends.

The painting to be done as an Eagle Scout project will be started shortly.

CHAIR'S REPORT: Mrs. Glew, Mr. Kaplan and Ms. Himmelfarb attended a seminar on "Better Boards for Libraries" and other members will be attending another session next week.

Mrs. Glew also mentioned the passing of Dick Wagner, a benefactor of the Library, and the Board's condolences will be sent to his family.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Mrs. Bullock passed out the monthly budget report. She

also shared an article in the Christian Science Monitor on the Future of Reading.

Mrs. Glassman requested a prioritized list from the Board on Library Core Services and the list Mrs. Bullock prepared was reviewed and prioritized. It will be forwarded to her this week.

POLICIES: Mrs. Glew asked for the Board's approval of the by-laws that were amended to be current with the number of people on the Board and other minor changes.

B. Kaplan moved the Board approve the By-Laws as amended. Second: M. O'Neil. So moved.

At 10:00 P.M. J. Blumenthal moved for adjournment. Second: B. Kaplan. So moved.

Anne Erickson, Secretary