

Willimantic Public Library Board Minutes

Date: May 25, 2010

Attendance: Judd Ayer, Chairman, Eunice Edelman, Jean Jakoboski, Ted Perch, Gail Zeiba. Absent: Dennis Cronin, Olga Kurnyk-Ezis, Neil Mesick.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

The time was changed to 6:00 from 7:15 to accommodate the newly forming Friends of the Library which needed to meet at 7 pm.

Reports of the Librarians:

From the Children's Department, Gail Zeiba, Children's Librarian

The biennial Children's Truck Day is coming up on June 12th. It's an opportunity for children to touch the trucks, and meet the drivers. It's free advertising to business in the community. It's one project done as a collaboration with the other two Windham libraries. The 3rd Thursday in June will be the kick-off for the Summer Reading Program. This year is a water theme.

Report of the Director

1. The Library is in the process of redesigning its website. Samples of the Norwich company to be hired to do this can be found at the Ridgefield library website, <http://www.ridgefieldlibrary.org/> and at the Thompson library website, <http://www.thompsonpubliclibrary.org/>. Ted has met once with this company. There is a survey available on the current website to provide feedback on what would work best on the site. The current url for the Willimantic Library is www.biblio.org/willimantic. The Willimantic Public Library website will have a new url and domain name.
2. A Library Technical Assistant I position will be open at the end of the week. The replacement person is here already working with the current staff member before she leaves.
3. Reduced summer hours begin June 19th. This means that the library will be closed Saturdays and close at 5 instead of 6 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
4. We are getting bids for a new roof today, taking everything off and starting from scratch.

Old Business

Judd met with Neal Beets, Windham Town Manager. Neal and Judd reviewed the goals of the Town. Goals include economic development, helping with education, and keeping the cost of running the government low. The concept of a new library building has not taken off yet.

The Board feels the goals of the Town match the goals of the Library.

Economic Development. A viable new library building could be a draw to business and residents.

Current building would then be open to more lucrative uses. Ted can check to see if there is any interest

in the building in the community.

Education. Helping with education fits in with the library mission. Viewing the library as infrastructure, the Library needs more space to serve community organizations like the soccer team which is meeting here already. Meeting rooms for civic organizations and relevant programming are needed as evidenced by phone calls Ted receives requesting this space. To do this effectively, the Library needs a new building with more space and more parking accessibility.

Low Cost of Government. Keeping the cost of government low ties in with regular maintenance of what we have, otherwise costs will be extensive further down the line.

New Business

Gail mentioned the schools are having budget cuts, eliminating some positions, looking to the library for more services. The loss of the Outreach Coordinator position at the library has made this increasingly difficult at a time when there seems to be more demand. Judd will write a Letter to the Editor concerning this.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Submitted by Jean Jakoboski, 5/27/2010.