

Minutes of the Meeting
Kent Memorial Library Commission

April 8, 2014

Lynne Cigal called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

I. Roll Call

Present: Mike Alexopoulos Robert "Bob" Brooks Lynne Cigal
 Sam Coatti Rebecca "Becki" Fuller Joan Greenfield
 Joe Grimard Claire Kawalec Chris Rago
 Bruce Rietberg Robert "Bob" White
 Kim Lord Wendy Taylor
 Mel Chafetz - Liaison from the Board of Selectmen
 Lester Smith

II. Public Participation

Andrew "Andy" Preissner, owner of AMP Tech Consulting and Vice-President of the Suffield Chamber of Commerce, came to discuss options for upgrading the library's technology. The Chamber is willing to provide a grant for technology. He will meet with Kim Lord and Bruce Rietberg to discuss possibilities.

III. Minutes

The minutes of the regular March meeting were amended and approved by a motion made by Chris Rago and seconded by Joe Grimard. Passed unanimously.

A motion to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting on March 26, 2014 with no changes was made by Sam Coatti and seconded by Chris Rago. Passed unanimously.

IV. Communications Received

A letter of complaint was received from Melten Lavoie, an owner of a marketing-technology firm and member of the Suffield Chamber of Commerce, who was hosting the seminar with Andy Preissner prior to our meeting. Her complaints were (a) our computers are still Windows XP and unworkably (in her opinion) out-of-date, and (b) our WiFi has little strength and speed, and has many dead spots in the library. Regarding (a), the 25 XP computers are upgraded at 5 per year to stay within our budget, and regarding (b) the recent updating of the modem, and router, and addition of two "boosters / extenders" last week means this problem has been resolved. Lynne Cigal will meet with the writer about these issues.

V. ADA Update

Becki Fuller made a motion to move the ADA Update report from Unfinished Business to this position. Seconded by Bob White. Unanimous approval. Mel

Chafetz advised that he had attended a meeting of the Historic Commission. They discussed the new ADA facade for the library. They want the present grey/pink granite on the base of our present library to be copied on the new ADA addition. However, this may now be difficult to match, and be very costly. The option is to use bricks and paint them white to match the upper walls. Our bid has gone out to include pricing the option of the granite. The Foundation is raising money to construct a unique double-deep bench with legs that look like books.

The Foundation is raising money to put an announcement monitor to face Bank Lane through the glass walls/doors in the new ADA addition. There was a suggestion to put viewing monitors in that front lobby and the Gallery for building/staff security as well as protecting public displays in the Gallery, a concern voiced by one artist.

The replacement of the glass windows may be delayed for a year due to budget limitations for HVAC, electric, and the new addition costs.

VI. Report of the Director

Concerning some changing statistics in Children's and Young Adults' activity, Wendy advised that originally (years ago) there was no budget for Young Adult, but through the years, money in the Children's area has increasingly been drained for this. She feels that a budget increase is needed for both areas to adequately serve our community.

VII. Standing Committees Reports

Finance – Annuities – Claire and Bob Brooks advised that the surrender values of the four annuities exceeds the death benefits; therefore they will discuss this with the donor families involved, and arrange to cash in these annuities.

VIII. Unfinished Business

Strategic Plan Committee Update – The committee has completed the focus group with the Suffield High School students, and is meeting with the PTO Board this Thursday evening April 10th at McAllister Middle School.

New Library Director – Jackie Hemond has accepted the position of Director and starts Monday, April 21, 2014. The Friends and Commission will plan to hold a Town Welcome for her, likely in May or June.

IX. New Business

Suffield-on-the-Green – Chris Rago suggests activities be postponed until the new Director starts and can become involved.

Other – Discussion was held regarding our appreciation for the jobs done by Kim and Wendy in being Interim Co-Directors for four months since Jim McShane left and until our new Director starts. A motion for a particular Gift of Appreciation was made by Joe Grimard. Seconded by Bob Brooks. Motion passed with 2 opposed to the chosen gift and 1 abstention.

Kim and Wendy suggested some appreciation for the indispensable staff support they received. Our Commission decided to do something April 23rd for the staff and Jackie, the new Director.

IX Adjournment

Meeting adjourned by Lynne Cigal at 8:28 PM.

The next meeting will be in May 13, 2014.
Future meetings will be - June 10, Sept. 9, Oct. 14, Nov. 11 and
Dec. 9 (financial meeting, not regular meeting).

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Rietberg
Secretary
April 9, 2014