

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE TOWN OF PELHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY**

530 Colonial Avenue  
Pelham, NY 10803  
September 12, 2012  
7:30 p.m.

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**Board Members Present:**

John Lent, Jack Kaufmann, Steve Swanson, Sandy Angevine, Anne Calder, Jenny Del Re, Peter Monaco, Paul Osmolskis, Everett Potter and Margaret Young.

**Also Present:** Library Director Patricia Perito, Town Supervisor Peter DiPaola, Friends of the Library Co-President Sue Simpson.

**Not present:** Jane Azia

**Minutes**

The minutes of the July 11, 2012, meeting were approved.

**Financial Reports**

Library director Patricia Perito said there had been no significant financial developments since the last meeting. She noted that the patron and promo supplies budget is almost used up following a recent order of bookmarks, which cost \$500.

Noting that equipment expenditures are low so far, Anne Calder asked if there were plans to buy equipment through the end of the year. Tricia said she would like to buy a new display rack, to be placed in the library entry hallway.

It was noted that postage expenses are also low; Tricia believes the library is using less postage as it increases the amount of e-marketing with such things as the monthly e-mail newsletter.

In "Other Expense," a \$40,000 deposit has been paid to the contractor for the library's roofing project.

On the balance sheet, it was noted that the fund balance has increased by \$22,000 since the beginning of the years. Tricia said she would research why this has happened and provide an answer.

Anne and Margaret Young indicated that after next year's budget is done, they will review the way financials are reported with the aim of making them clearer and more in keeping with general accounting practices.

The board approved the financial reports.

Anne reported that the annual audit was successful in that it concluded that the library's financial statements fairly presented the library's financial operations.

Library President John Lent said that as the annual budgeting season approached, he hoped the Library could look forward to receiving some guidance from the Town for the coming year.

Town Supervisor Peter DiPaola said the state property tax cap has made things more difficult for taxing bodies, and legislators' discretionary funds have almost completely dried up. He has asked that all units of Town government be frugal in preparing their budgets. But he assured the Board that the Library is an integral part of the Town and that the Town would work with the Library to arrive at a budget.

### **Friends Report**

Friends Co-President Sue Simpson said the Friends had decided to use handheld devices to speed up and improve bidding at the silent auction on Novel Night. These devices reportedly result in a 15 to 40 percent increase in average bids. Also, this will be the first event in Pelham to use the devices, which should add to the interest in the auction.

Sue said the Friends have commitments from dinner hosts that total more than 500 seats.

### **Building and Grounds Committee**

Regarding the roof replacement project, Peter Monaco showed samples of the slate that will be used on the roof. A combination of five colors will be used; the slate is expected to arrive the week of Sept. 17th. Peter created a six-week schedule with the contractor; his goal is to have the installation finished by Halloween.

By finishing then, Peter noted that there would be time for the exterior wood surfaces to be repainted before winter.

Regarding another part of the roof project—attic insulation—Peter said he has received one quote so far and wants to get more.

It was noted that exterior painting is not part of the roof grant, and John pointed out that the board has not voted on the work. Peter said he would get quotes by the October meeting.

During the roof project, some parking spots will be used as a staging area, Peter said. The contractor is responsible for cleaning up at the end of each workday, and he understands that the library will remain open during construction.

Peter DiPaola asked about a permit for the project; Peter Monaco said the contractor would be in touch with Pelham Manor about that.

John asked Tricia if she was confident that the contractor would be responsible and operate in a safe manner. She said her main concern was the potential for problems caused by the congestion in the parking lot after school. John asked Tricia to contact the police to provide patrols at that time. Anne said this could be an opportunity to try to end the practice of using the library parking lot as a meeting place for pickup after school.

### **Nominating Committee**

John reported that both Peter Monaco and Jack Kaufmann have each agreed to another five-year term. The Board approved the nominations.

John, who announced that he was not seeking another two-year term as President and was resigning from the board, distributed the resume of Robert Parisi, whom he presented as a candidate to fill the remaining two years of his term. Jack noted that he had known Mr. Parisi for about 20 years.

The Board approved the nomination. The Town Board must approve all three nominees.

Turning to the election of officers, John said that Jack had agreed to another one-year term as Vice President and Steve Swanson had agreed to serve another one-year term as Secretary. He nominated Margaret Young to a two-year term as President.

The Board voted to approve the slate of officers.

Supervisor DiPaola told John that the Town Board would miss him and that it had been a pleasure working with him.

### **Director's Report**

Tricia reported that Tyrek Roberts had resigned as library page.

The Junior League has chosen the library as the beneficiary for this year's provisional class project. The staff is working on identifying project ideas.

The popular Homework Help program is scheduled to resume in October.

For adults, the fall local authors series includes Barbara Boroson, co-authors Lauren Carner and Angela Iadavia-Cox, and William Broad.

A mother of a student at Colonial School has asked children's librarian Lilly Hecker if she is interested in leading a book discussion for 4th

and 5th grade boys at lunch time. If the principal approves, the program will begin in October.

Tricia said that Better World Books, which uses donated books to promote literacy, has proposed placing a drop box, either at the library or elsewhere in Pelham, where residents could donate books. Currently, the library staff processes books for the program, which results in a small amount of revenue for the library.

#### **Other Business**

John concluded the meeting with farewell remarks. He called the Town of Pelham Public Library a unique, community-created resource. In his 25 years as a Pelham resident, the Library stands out as one of the most ambitious projects the town has undertaken, he said.

He thanked the Board of Trustees for their time and support, and he commended the Library staff, led very ably by Patricia.

Because of the Library's size, he said he thought it was a priority to continue to attract people to the Board who want to be active Trustees, who are willing to work and not serve as merely an advisory board.

John thanked Peter DiPaola for his support and for coming to the meeting. He said the Town has been very supportive of the Board. He said he had wanted to have an open relationship with the Town, and he thought progress had been made toward that.

He also thanked the Friends, saying that without their fundraising, the library couldn't exist.

After noting that he had served on the board for 11 years, including the last four years as President, he thanked Margaret for stepping up to be President.

Finally, he said he thought that now is a really exciting time for libraries. What he will miss, he said, is furthering the conversation about what libraries are going to become. He called himself very optimistic about the future of libraries. He does not think the rise of electronic media will mean the demise of libraries.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

**Next meeting:** The next regular meeting of the Town of Pelham Public Library Board of Trustees will be Wednesday, October 3, 2012, at 7:30 p.m.