

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

530 Colonial Avenue

Pelham, NY 10803

November 14, 2012 (Rescheduled after the Nov. 7th meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.)

7:30 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Margaret Young, Jack Kaufmann, Steve Swanson, Sandy Angevine, Anne Calder, Peter Monaco and Paul Osmolskis.

Also Present: Library Director Patricia Perito, Town liaison Dan McLaughlin and Junior League provisional class representatives Avanel Jarka and Janna Johnsen.

Not present: Jane Azia, Jenny Del Re, Robert Parisi and Everett Potter.

Minutes

The minutes of the October 3, 2012, meeting were approved.

Junior League Provisional Class Proposed Project

Janna Johnsen and Avanel Jarka presented the Junior League Provisional Class' proposal to start a Teen Advisory Board at the Library as a way to involve teenagers in the Library through volunteer teen programs, workshops, and other events. The proposed inaugural event is a Teen Coffee House Night on Feb. 7th in the program room, featuring acoustic music, poetry readings and theatrical skits.

The Provisional Class tried to look at innovative avenues for attracting teens into the library because they have so many resources available to them at home.

The Teen Advisory Board would focus on the 9th to 12th grades. Participation would be a way to earn community volunteer credit hours. As the program becomes established, it could grow in dimensions. The Junior League would cover initial costs, with a \$1,200 budget to cover food, beverages and other expenses.

In discussing how teens could be involved at the library, one potential project that was mentioned was for teens to assist senior citizens with technology, including computers, cell phones and other devices.

Janna and Avanel said there were 13 women in the Provisional Class, so there is a great deal of adult assistance available to launch the Teen Advisory Board.

Margaret Young asked how the adult supervision of the advisory board would continue beyond this year's provisional class. Tricia said Lilly Hecker would likely become the adult liaison at some point.

Janna and Avanel said the project had been approved by the Junior League.

Building and Grounds Committee

Town Liaison Dan McLaughlin said he had signed a voucher for \$20,000 for the Town to transfer to the Library as part of its commitment to help pay for the roofing project.

Peter Monaco said the contractor expects the work to be complete in a couple of weeks. Peter believes the work will go into the first week of December.

Regarding the attic insulation work that is to be done as part of the roofing project, Paul Osmolskis has reviewed the one bid received so far and he believed it was in excess of what was needed. The attic currently has fiberglass insulation; the bid included removal of the current insulation, which Paul feels is unnecessary.

In preparation for Hurricane Sandy, the contractor covered the roof with a tarpaulin and nailed it down, using wood battens to hold it in place. Nothing was blown off.

Peter said that the library came through Sandy without serious damage. The Library, like much of Pelham, lost power, but the electrical contractor rewired the emergency generator so that it was capable of supplying more than 90 percent of the Library's power needs. (The original intent of the generator was to run the pumps and heat the building.) The Library was able to reopen and served as a community resource where people could have Internet access and recharge their electronic devices.

Margaret said that as a result of the emergency electrical work, we have something of significant, lasting value. But she wonders if a process should be in place for approving emergency expenditures above a certain dollar amount. Anne Calder said she didn't think any board member questioned the need for the expense, but it did reveal a chink in the Library's financial armor.

The board discussed various ways emergency expenditures could be approved in the future, with a consensus that as a capital expense, the Town should be consulted.

Financial Reports

Dan said he thought the Library made a very strong budget presentation to the Town. The final Town board meeting on the budget is Dec. 13th. He expects the budget to be adjusted somewhat, but he doesn't think the adjustments will be onerous.

Tricia said the library had received an \$842 rebate on the Library's phone bill. The rebate, which was submitted on the Library's behalf by WLS, works out to about 40 percent of our phone bill.

Library collection expenditures are running at about 72 percent, but Tricia expects more orders to be placed by the end of the year.

The financial reports were approved.

Margaret said Dan had asked that some way be found to reflect ways that the Town supports the library over and above the Town allocation. She also said there had been discussion about the amounts that the Town had allocated that had not been spent over the years.

Regarding WLS, she said the Library has received notice that the WLS fee for 2012 will be about \$3,000 higher than we were originally told, based on a reworking of the fee calculation. The main reason the fee is going up is our heavy reliance on WLS for borrowings.

Margaret raised the question of how the Library should pay the Senerchia bill for wiring the emergency generator to run the library (the bill is \$3,380). One possibility is to use some of the overfunded amount.

President's Report

Because of the length of the meeting, Margaret postponed the report on WLS statistics.

Jane Azia has resigned from the board. Margaret thanked her for her many years of service. Regarding a replacement, she said we should probably look for someone with programming experience, since Bob Parisi is a lawyer and is stepping into Jane's role.

Peter has announced that he will leave the board when the roof is finished. He has found his own replacement: Carl Panuti, who has spent his career working with the New York State Department of Environmental Protection.

Director's Report

Tricia reported that a new page, Andrew Hamlin, has started.

Margaret commented that she appreciated the fact that staff members are wearing nametags.

The next round of Creative Aging grant applications is coming up; they are due prior to Thanksgiving.

Part of the fence bordering the parking lot came down during the hurricane; Paul will look at it and determine what needs to be done.

The door counter malfunctioned for a couple of weeks at about the time of the hurricane, but it seems to be working again.

Lilly conducted the first book club meeting with Colonial School boys. The principal of Siwanoy School is interested in starting a book club as well.

Other Business

Tricia presented schedules for 11 proposed closing dates for 2013 and 10 board meeting dates. The Board approved both.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

Next meeting: The next regular meeting of the Town of Pelham Public Library Board of Trustees will be Wednesday, December 5, 2012, at 7:30 p.m.