

BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF MAY 21, 2007 MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: The Meeting was called to order at 5:45 pm by the Chair.

PRESENT: Jeanie Bartolo, Linda Call, Pam Gill, Mila Moschella, Ellen Palleschi and Kathy Tozza.

SECTY'S RPT.: Report was read by all. A Motion was made by Ellen Palleschi and seconded by Linda Call to accept the Secretary's Report. All agreed.

TREAS. RPT.: Report was read by the Treasurer. A Motion was made by Ellen Palleschi and seconded by Jeanie Bartolo to accept the Treasurer's Report. All agreed.

DIRECTOR'S RPT.: A copy of the contract between the MBLC and the Town of Saugus was passed out.
A copy of Town Counsel John Vasapolli's legal opinion on the aforementioned contract, with attachments provided to him by the MBLC, was passed out.
A copy of the response by the MBLC, reiterating they require the Town to perform under the terms of the Contract or they will have to repay the grant amount with interest.
Mary Rose states that the Town intends to proceed with the closure of the Library without the thought of any future payment.

Discussion by Mary Rose on hours of operation of the Library. We are no longer doing ILL's (Inter-Library Loans). We are only open limited hours due to staffing shortages as the Town Manager has asked Library Staff to take unused vacation time before June 30th. Given the number of weeks owed to some employees, it will not be possible for all employees to take all of their unused, earned vacation time. The Town Manager has stated, through Fran Trainor that he has no funds to compensate for unused vacation time at the end of 2007. Further, although he knows legally he is obligated to pay it; he doesn't know when the funds would be available for us.

2.

DIRECTORS RPT.: CONTINUED

If the Trash Fee is passed by Town Meeting, the Library would be allowed to stay open 15 hours per week with only FTE down to one half time and all present part time staff would be laid off.
If the Trash Fee does not pass, the Library is closed on June 29th.

Mary Rose asks the Board; “what do you want me to do with the official close down date?” This is followed by a discussion by the Board of Trustees.

The Trustees ask; is it realistic to try to keep the Library open only 15 hours a week? What market are we targeting, i.e.: students, seniors, visually impaired, etc.

Mary Rose states she feels it is important that we stay open to maintain a presence in the community even though we will be decertified.

The Trustees ask, do we need a full time Library Director for a part time staff and hours? Mary Rose responds that the Director has responsibilities to the Network and the Region, in addition to the Library. The Director works 60 – 80 hours per week on a regular basis. A full time Library Director is needed to oversee the day to day operation of the Library whether it is for 21 hours or 36.5 hours. Mary Rose also takes on all the duties of the Assistant Director who left 18 months ago and was not replaced. There will also be a need to fund raise which takes a great deal of time to plan and implement. A lengthy discussion among the Trustees and Mary Rose ensues.

The Trustees propose to have Fran Trainor in Town Personnel to draft a lay off letter for Mary Rose specifically.

The Trustees discuss a vote to close the Library on Thursday, May 24th. A Motion was made Mila Moschella and seconded by the Chair to close the Library on May 24th. All agreed.

At 6:45 pm, a Motion to adjourn and move to Executive Session was made by Linda Call and seconded by the Chair, Jeanie Bartolo to discuss the Director’s hours and position. All agreed.

NEXT MEETING: June 18th at 6:00 pm or at the call of the Chair.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda E. Duffy