

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SOUTH SHORE REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD, APRIL 18, 2006, LUNENBURG LIBRARY, 6:30 P.M.

Those present: Mr. Don Zwicker, Chair
 Mrs. Marie Hogan Loker, Vice Chair
 Mrs Cynthia Bruhm
 Ms. Clara Dugas
 Tina Hennigar
 Councillor Robert Myra
 Mr. Tom Sheppard
 Mr. Alan Wilson
 Janet Clark, Secretary/Treasurer
 Jeff Mercer, Branch/Extension/Systems Librarian
 Mrs. Lynn Robart, Recorder

Councillor Karen Dempsey, Councillor Beverlee Brown, Mrs. Wilma Stewart-White, Ms. Debra MacLean, Councillor Heather Anne Getson, Amanda Dexter and Councillor Wayne Henley were unable to attend.

MINUTES

Motion: “THAT the South Shore Regional Library Board approve the minutes of March 21, 2006.”

MYRA/HOGAN LOKER All in favour. Motion Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

.01 Update – new Bridgewater Library

Janet Clark and Don Zwicker reported no recent activity relating to the Bridgewater Library. Janet said that they were waiting for the consultant to assess the Canadian Tire building. The Library planning expert was trying to find a time to visit us in combination with another trip to save us money, and that did not work out. Janet will contact him.

.02 Audit Committee

Debra MacLean and Janet Clark met to discuss the Audit Committee. We are not sure a committee is needed. At Debra's request, Janet contacted our auditor Cindy Simms, with Grant Thornton; Cindy talked with her boss, Bob Oakley. Mr. Oakley suggested that at our Annual Meeting when he presents our audit, he discuss the idea of an Audit Committee. He also was not sure we need such a Committee. Meanwhile he will talk it over with his colleague who made the presentation at the LBANS/NSLA Conference from the Yarmouth office. Marie Hogan Loker added that at the conference she got the strong impression that it was essential to have an Audit Committee in place. Don Zwicker pointed out that we have a system of checks and procedures in place and we are professionally audited yearly.

.03 Development Committee – new mobile

The Development Committee met earlier in the afternoon with Marie Hogan Loker as Chair to discuss mobiles. The South Shore Regional Library requires replacement of both mobile branches, one sooner than the other. Tom Sheppard reported on the Committee's discussions and presented their recommendations. The Committee wondered what commitment we have from the Town of Bridgewater to support a new library, whatever its location. A fundraising campaign could seek funding for both a Town and a Mobile Branch. Council has not approved a motion of support though they agreed to partially fund an assessment of the Canadian Tire building. Chair Don Zwicker said he feels that there is commitment and support from the Town.

Motion:

“THAT the South Shore Regional Library Board reinvigorate the Board's Library Development Fund and earmark \$1,000 as seed money; ask the Friends of the Library to begin fundraising for a new mobile branch, starting with the fall Book Sale; begin fundraising for a new mobile library, with the option of including fundraising for the Bridgewater Library in the campaign; request from the various municipal units (Queens, Lunenburg County, Chester-New Ross, Mahone Bay) funding to cover the cost of new mobile library, funding to be based on population; and ask staff to prepare specs on the cost and procurement of a new mobile library.”

SHEPPARD/Wilson All in favour. Motion carried.

ITEMS RECEIVED

.01 Letter from Minister of Education

The Minister of Education Jamie Muir wrote announcing Nova Scotia Public Libraries would receive an extra \$1,000,000 to be used as they see fit. South Shore's share of this is \$72,000, which Janet said would help offset the deficit we are expecting when books close on the 2005-2006 year.

.02 Invitation from Marg Hennigar

Lighthouse Publishing has invited us to An invitation to the launch of Marg Hennigar's new children's book *No News Is Bad News* on Wednesday, May 3rd at 1 p.m. at Lighthouse Publishing, York Street, Bridgewater. Don Zwicker, Tom Sheppard, Janet Clark and Clara Dugas plan to attend. Tina Hennigar told the Board to watch for her as the Mom in the book's illustrations.

.03 Ark newsletter

Janet Clark pointed out an article on Clara Dugas and her weekly storytelling at the Ark in a recent 'Aboard THE ARK' Newsletter.

.04 Dalhousie University

A student at the Dalhousie University School of Information Management has written to ask permission to use the Lunenburg Library as one location for her thesis research on the library as a community place. She will also visit Pictou-Antigonish and Halifax Libraries. Jeff Mercer will discuss this with Lunenburg staff but Janet said she sees no reason this could not proceed. The research will involve surveying borrowers over a five-day period.

PUBLIC RELATIONS (see attached)

Janet Clark displayed a variety of posters and bookmarks from the Public Relations Department. She highlighted the upcoming Book Sale on May 6 & 7 and distributed posters. Several Board Members bought tickets on the Friends' upcoming draw for hand-made wooden bowls, a basket of Berenstain bears, and a whirligig – all donated.

MUNICIPAL/MLA VISITS

Janet Clark reminded the Board that it was that time of year again to visit MLAs municipal councils. Usually the Chair, Vice Chair and Janet make a presentation. Bea Renton, Lunenburg Town Manager, suggested we invite Lunenburg Town Council to the Library rather than go to their Chamber. Tom reminded us to ask for funding for the new mobile and said he thought the visits with refreshments had been effective. Don Zwicker, Marie Hogan Loker, and Janet Clark along with Teresa Workman will work on setting this up.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS

Provincial Librarian Jennifer Evans will host round table discussions on library service across the Province. Our region's session will be on April 19th at the Lunenburg Campus of the NSCC. Various people from the community including Friends, councillors, seniors, politicians, and business people have been officially invited. It is also open to the public so the press may attend. A few of our Board Members will be meeting with Jennifer and other Provincial Library staff at an earlier time for supper.

LBANS REORT

Marie Hogan Loker read a comment from Gary Archibald regarding the recent money received from the Government that read: *"By now you have heard of the \$1 million grant for the new year. I think that will replace the \$750,000 we received two years ago and the \$1.1 million we were given last year. Of course last year \$350,000 of that was to go towards technology. As far as we know there are no strings attached to this year's amount. It is unfortunate that this million was not put in the base amount for the operating formula. The new budget will contain some additional funding for the base amount."*

STAFF ASSOCIATION

Jeff Mercer representing the Staff Association had nothing to report.

OTHER

Janet circulated the following:

- ❖ *What's New at the Library*
- ❖ New Mobile Schedules
- ❖ Updated Board list

Janet also mentioned that she will be at the Council of Regional Librarians Meetings next week in Wolfville. There will be a farewell dinner for Eastern Counties Chief Librarian Dave Cumby who will be leaving in August to pursue education as a Baptist Minister.

Janet Clark said we have received a number of donations for large print books in memory of Ernest Beck a former Home Reader.

1 South Shore Regional Library
Public Relations Report to the Board
April 2006

Fundraising

The Library's Book Sale is scheduled for May 6 & 7 at the Michelin Social Club in Bridgewater. Doors open at 10 a.m. sharp on the Saturday and noon on Sunday.

The Library Development Committee will meet at Headquarters on April 18 to discuss the possibility of beginning the fundraising process for new Town and Mobile Branches.

Peggie Graham and Teresa are off to the annual AFP (Association of Fundraising Professionals) Conference in Halifax on April 19 & 20. Peggie will sit on a panel on fundraising in rural areas.

The Friends of the Library are currently selling tickets on a basket of wooden treasures - bowls hand-turned by Mahone Bay Dr. Andrew Watson and a whirl-i-gig created by Wayne Mosher of Dublin Shore. A basket of Berenstain bears from a Liverpool borrower completes the prize package. Tickets are \$2 each or three for \$5. Draw will be held on May 7th.

Programming

Our spring program line-up is in place and attendance remains high, helped in part by a great programmer and the inclusion of Library programs in the Co-operative Recreation Brochure. At a recent Library Assistants' meeting we addressed the issue of maximum numbers at programs and settled on a maximum of 25 people (children and adults) at programs in Lunenburg and 30 people in Bridgewater and Liverpool. Enforcing this maximum should help on several fronts - fire safety issues, Heather's voice, quality of programming for the children, etc. We continue to do outreach storytimes in communities served by Mobiles - New Germany, Mahone Bay, New Ross and North Queens. The groups give Heather top marks; the kids are always pleased to see her. Many of the groups are large and we will soon have to look at maximum numbers in those communities as well. Christina's basic computer skills classes are completely booked until June.

Community Outreach

Staff will attend the Parkview Knowledge Festival on April 22. We will promote regular in-house and online library services and offer an introduction to "Spy School", part of our summer programming. Staff have also visited a Liverpool Seniors' Expo, "Tea & Company" for Bridgewater Seniors and will accompany author Catherine Bush to Wickwire School on April 25. The PR Dept. is helping to prepare for Provincial Library's upcoming Round Table discussions by identifying and inviting members of our community, assisting with the slide show and providing signage.

Respectfully Submitted,
Teresa Workman, Public Relations Coordinator