

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH SHORE REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD
February 20, 2007 AT THE HEBBVILLE HEADQUARTERS AT 6:00 P.M.

Present: Vice-Chair Tom Sheppard
Mrs. Cindy Bruhm
Councillor Karen Dempsey
Ms. Clara Dugas
Ms. Debra MacLean
Councillor Susan MacLeod
Councillor Robert Myra
Councillor Don Zwicker
Ms. H.M. Janet Clark, Secretary/Treasurer
Mrs. Lynn Robart, Recorder

Ms. Marie Hogan Loker, Councillor Heather Anne Getson, Ms. Tina Hennigar , Mrs. Wilma Stewart-White, Mr. Alan Wilson, and Councillor Beverlee Brown were unable to attend.

Dave White attended on behalf of the Staff Association.

Vice Chair Sheppard asked for approval of the Agenda and any additions.

Motion: “THAT the Agenda be approved with the addition of Letters to the Minister of Education and MLAs and Liverpool Branch change table (to “Other”).
MYRA/Dempsey All in favour. Motion carried.

MINUTES

A couple of corrections: Item #3, page 4 should read “Marie Hogan Loker acknowledged Tom Sheppard’s help” and page 1 should read “Mr Tom Sheppard, ...were unable to attend.”

Motion: “THAT the Minutes for the January 30, 2007 meeting be approved as amended.”
ZWICKER/Bruhm All in favour. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

.01 Great West Life –Health/Dental Coverage

At the previous Board Meeting, Rob Cook of G. Cook and Sons talked about Great West Life's renewal of our employee insurance plan. There was an increase of 11%, with no coverage change. We discussed various options for reduced rates with reduced coverage. The Board requested input from the Staff and from the Finance Committee. Shelley Roy, president of the SSRL Staff Association, wrote that staff had approved a motion to accept the higher rates for the same coverage. This would mean an increase of \$3,000 annually to the Board's cost and Staff would also absorb an increase of \$3,000 per year. Karen Dempsey suggested that next year we investigate options earlier, so we have more time to consider. Debra MacLean added that at least the staff pays half of the cost – in some organizations employers pay the entire shot. Don Zwicker asked whether we had investigated the family versus couple option suggested last time. Janet Clark said she had talked to Mr. Cook and in a small group like ours it might decrease the couple cost but those with family coverage would have to make up the difference.

Motion:

“THAT the South Shore Regional Library Board renew employee insurance with Great West Life, with an 11% (\$3,000) increase in Health/Dental coverage for staff for the next year.

MACLEAN/Dempsey

All in favour. Motion carried.

.02 RBR Developments

Janet Clark reported that the contract with RBR Developments has been signed and sent. The Friends of the South Shore Regional Library will contribute \$4,000 to the cost of the Feasibility Study. This is separate from the Book sale funds, which are used for new books. Teresa Workman is applying to the Nova Scotia Department of Economic Development (OED) for funds to help with the cost of the study. The Board asked that a letter go to the Friends thanking them for their contribution.

.03 Bridgewater Library

Janet Clark reported no new activity re the Canadian Tire site. We are waiting for a response to our proposal. Janet thanked Don Zwicker for his help with the proposal.

.04 Letter to Minister of Education, Karen Casey

Marie Hogan Loker has written to the Minister of Education about the need for increased funding for public libraries. Janet Clark read the letter to the Board.

.05 Letters to MLAs

Marie Hogan Loker also wrote to our Lunenburg and Queens MLAs, asking them to support increased funding for public libraries. Janet Clark also read this letter. Debra MacLean suggested we provide copies of these letters to the media. Don Zwicker suggested that next time we are lobbying on this matter we emphasize technical and trade books and resources available through libraries, because skills development is an issue the government is aware of and trying to address. Debra also suggested contacting *Chronicle-Herald* columnist Peter Duffy and inviting him to a Seniors' Café event, to publicize libraries. Duffy has a wide readership.

Motion: "THAT letters to Minister of Education and local MLA's should be forwarded to the press."
ZWICKER /Dempsey All in favour. Motion carried.

ITEMS RECEIVED

.01 Staff Association Letter – Flu pandemic awareness and Cost-of-Living

The Staff Association wrote regarding plans for a pandemic and the cost-of-living increase. They asked whether they would be paid if public buildings are closed during a pandemic if their services are not needed. They also asked that for the 2007-2008 budget, a cost-of-living increase of 1.5%, the amount of last year's increase, which was not awarded, be added to the increase as reported by Stats Can for the year. Marie Hogan Loker replied: We intend to pay staff during any closure and we intend to give the 1.5% increase if the budget allows.

Marie's letter also said that we have just begun thinking about plans for any pandemic. Janet Clark mentioned that she has asked her counterparts around the Province what their plans were – most do not have plans yet, although Halifax supplied some useful information. Janet mentioned that libraries can play a helpful role in providing information and acting as community centres during crises. During the Katrina floods in New Orleans, people used library public access terminals to let loved ones know their condition. Don Zwicker suggested that Janet speak to the EMO Representatives for Lunenburg County and Queens County, Brian Keiser is the person for Lunenburg County. Susan MacLeod said that Queens the person would be Bob Rowter. Janet Clark will do further investigation and report on this at a later meeting.

Janet said that we now know this year's cost-of-living increase - .7%, which would mean a total of 2.2% as an increase in salaries if we are able to meet the Staff's request. Debra Maclean commented that we are working within an extremely tight budget, that the staff has worked very hard to keep costs down this year, and they deserve our thanks. Don Zwicker said we must not sacrifice any more money from the book budget.

CHEQUES/DEPOSITS FOR JANUARY 2007

Motion: "THAT the South Shore Regional Library Board receive the list of cheques and deposits for January 2007 totalling \$50,416.05."
ZWICKER/Bruhm All in favour. Motion carried.

3rd QUARTER SPENDING REPORT

A 3rd Quarter Spending Report was circulated to the Board. It shows a slight surplus for the end of the 3rd quarter.

Motion: "THAT the South Shore Regional Library Board receives the 3rd Quarter Spending Report for 2006-07."
BRUHM/MacLean All in favour. Motion carried.

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT – see attached

STAFF ASSOCIATION

Dave White, representing the Staff Association, informed the Board that Sandra Whitman, Library Clerk, Technical Services, has been diagnosed with breast cancer, and will have surgery Wednesday. The Board asked Janet and Lynn to send their good wishes and flowers or whatever is appropriate.

Dave White talked about the need for a new Mobile. He said Janet Clark had contacted Paul MacLellan of the Department of Education about buying a school bus shell as part of their process for obtaining school buses. Janet has not had a response yet. Dave has also made contact with Silvers' Garage for a shell for a bus.

Once again Don Zwicker said that the municipalities are starting their budget process and we should be making a presentation to them for financial support for a new mobile. He said we should give them the chance to say no. Janet gave some figures for contributions in the same ratio as operating funding. Councillor Susan MacLeod said she did not feel Council would support that in the Region of Queens especially since Sherman Hines has increased the rent for the Thomas H. Raddall Library from \$6 to \$10 a square foot. Board members asked Janet to do some arithmetic with various approaches to the funding of a Mobile to bring to the next meeting.

THOMAS H. RADDALL LIBRARY

A baby change table is needed for Thomas H. Raddall Library, for families who attend programs and use the libraries. Susan MacLeod said she was investigating ways to get one – Sherman Hines should provide this. Lunenburg Library and Bridgewater Library have change tables provided by the Towns, which own the library buildings. Janet Clark said she has been working with staff to prepare the annual requests for furniture and equipment that go to municipalities. The request for a change table will be on the Liverpool request list for 2007-08.

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting will be March 20, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Don Zwicker moved that the meeting be adjourned.

Tom Sheppard, Vice-chair

H.M. Janet Clark, Secretary/Treasurer

**Public Relations Report
February 2007**

Fundraising

With the approval of the Board at their meeting of January 30, the Library is poised to begin a Capital Fundraising Feasibility Study with RBR Development Associates. We've applied to the Office of Economic Development for partial funding to complete the study. The contract for the Feasibility Study will be signed in short order. The study should be completed and presented to the Board by May 1.

We are still awaiting word from our application (also to the Office of Economic Development) for \$3,500 to fund the Cameron Study from last September. Carolyn Bolivar-Getson has lent her support to the application; we hope that the decision will be in our favour. OED Development Officer Everett Bachman thinks we should have an answer within the next thirty days.

Friends of the Library remain eager to help further the cause of a new Library. Teresa will attend the February 13th Friends meeting to bring them up-to-speed on what's happening. We will ask them to consider supporting a portion of the feasibility study.

A proposal asking for a donation of the former Canadian Tire building has been sent to Canadian Tire owner Martha Billes and contains supporting quotes from Chair Hogan Loker, Mayor Publicover and Constable John Kennedy. Local Canadian Tire owner Russell Unilowsky supports the proposal but had not provided written support at the time this report was written. We hope the proposal will open a discussion that may result in at least a discounted purchase price for the building.

Applications for Canada Council funding, summer student grants and potential summer reading club sponsors will keep Peggie busy for awhile.

Planning

Approximately 20 staff and Board continue to work on goal setting. The group has prioritized seven areas of emphasis and is finished setting goals and objectives for these priorities. We will continue to work on developing an action plan and will present a finished report to the Board by June 2007.

Programming

Programming continues to be popular. Storytime, computer classes and manga drawing are filled to capacity. Seniors' Cafés at all three branches are popular (12 - 15 people per month). A recent author reading with New Brunswick novelist Don Hannah attracted 21 people on a Saturday afternoon at the Lunenburg Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Workman, Public Relations Coordinator