

SOUTH SHORE REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD General Meeting, Administration
Office, 15442, Highway #3, Hebbville, June 21, 2011, following the AGM

The South Shore Regional Library Board administers South Shore Public Libraries. South Shore Public Libraries celebrate reading, discovering, learning and sharing.

Present: Mr. Tom Sheppard, Chair
Mrs. Wilma Stewart-White, Vice-chair
Ms. Cindy Bruhm
Dr. David Brattston
Ms. Wendy Dean
Councillor Randy Dickie
Councillor Patrick Hirtle
Mrs. Marie Hogan Loker
Councillor Cathy Moore
Councillor Robert Myra
Dr. Magdalena Nestel
Mr. Mark Taylor
Mr. Alan Wilson
Mr. Don Zwicker
Ms. Shelley Zwicker
Ms. Cathy MacDonald
Mr. Jeff Mercer
Mr. Troy Myers, Secretary/Treasurer
Ms. Lynn Robart, Recorder

Regrets from: Mr. Frank Fawson, Ms. Shelley Zwicker, and Councillor Patrick Hirtle

Ms. Teresa Workman representing the Staff Association.

MINUTES

Motion: "THAT the South Shore Regional Library Board accept the minutes of the May 17, 2011 General Meeting as circulated."

BRUHM/Myra All in favour. Motion carried.

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT - circulated with Notice of Meeting

LUNENBURG COUNTY LIFETSTYLE CENTRE

Chief Librarian Troy Myers informed the Board that tender documents will soon be released. Digging will start before the end of July and building will begin in September.

Chair Tom Sheppard thanked Troy and Don's work on the commitment to the Lifestyle Centre.

LBANS REPORT

Please see attached letters that LBANS had sent to Executive Director David Ross and Deputy Minister Lori Lee Langley of Communities, Culture & Heritage.

PROVINCIAL APPOINTEE REPORT - Circulated with notice of meeting

STAFF ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

Teresa Workman, on behalf of the staff, thanked the Board for the 3% cost-of-living increase for 2011-2012.

The Board thanked Teresa for her work on the William Deverell readings recently held in Lunenburg and Liverpool. Mr. Myers also thanked her work in obtaining and branding some of the equipment 'soon to be officially named' library display.

FUNDRAISING

Dr. Magdalena Nestel made a presentation on some of the upcoming fundraisers for the new facility (HQ and BW branch)

- Margaret Atwood will be visiting the South Shore in mid August, while she is here a Champagne Sunset fundraising gala will be held at the residence of Dr. Johnson, overlooking the LaHave River. Tickets for the event will be approximately \$100-\$150.
- Dr. Nestel is also pursuing 2 year/\$50 per month donations from interested parties for a shelf or chair naming, etc.

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, August 16th. Details will follow.

ADJOURNMENT

Councillor Cathy Moore moved the meeting to be adjourned.

Tom Sheppard, Chair

Troy Myers, Secretary/Treasurer

Library Boards Association of Nova Scotia
53 Sherwood Drive, Wolfville, Nova Scotia,
B4P 2K5, (902) 542-7386

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Mr. David Ross, Executive Director
Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture & Heritage
World Trade Centre, 6th Floor
PO Box 456, 1800 Argyle Street
Halifax, NS B3J 2R5

May 30, 2011

Dear Mr. Ross:

At the last LBANS Executive meeting, members noted that there has been a dearth of information coming from the Department of CCH regarding the position and future of public libraries. Therefore, as the Executive Director responsible for the Provincial Library, we are asking you for clarification on who in the Department of CCH is responsible for communication between the Department and Regional Library Boards in Nova Scotia. We are aware that Provincial Librarian Jennifer Evans is working closely with you and other key people in the department on behalf of Public Libraries, but there seems to be a disconnect in the communication coming from the Department of CCH to Regional Libraries. This lack of information is mirrored in the CCH website which continues to neglect links to public libraries despite this being one of the items raised at the February 18, 2011 meeting between LBANS and Minister Wilson, yourself and other departmental personnel. Some examples are:

- News Releases and Publications related to libraries are not on the CCH website while other sectors of the department are featured.
- Boards Commissions and Agencies make no mention of Library Boards despite the fact that each board has 2 provincial appointees who apply for the positions through the Agencies, Boards and Commissions.
- Structure & Legislature makes no mention of public libraries or the Libraries Act. While this legislation may be slated for updating in the future to conform to the new departmental organization, it is still the current legislation and should be included with other legislation in your department.

- The 'I Want To' box has no link to visiting a library. Finding a local library and connecting to the services and programs should be available to residents, newcomers and tourists.

These are just a few of the more prominent shortcomings of the website that together send the perception that libraries are not a key part of Communities, Culture and Heritage as a department or as a social institution.

To help bridge this communication gap, LBANS would like to put forward the suggestion that the Department of CCH host a joint meeting of Chief Librarians (CORL), LBANS and Board Chairs to open a dialogue between your department and people who deliver library service to Nova Scotians. We feel we have been patient during the reorganization of the department but also believe it is time for the Department of CCH to raise the profile of public libraries on the website and through open communication with the Regional Libraries.

Yours truly,

pp Mary MacLellan, LBANS President

cc: Jennifer Evans, Provincial Librarian
Laura Lee Langley, Deputy Minister

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Ms. Laura Lee Langley
Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture & Heritage
World Trade Centre, 6th Floor
PO Box 456, 1800 Argyle Street
Halifax, NS B3J 2R5

May 28, 2011

Dear Ms. Langley:

In February, when we met with Minister Wilson and key departmental personnel, LBANS was very interested to hear about your vision for the community focus of the new Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage. Indeed, when the department's Statement of Mandate was published on your website we were encouraged to read that the

“... focus on community extends to the work of the Provincial Library and the support it provides to public libraries across Nova Scotia. Libraries play an important role in encouraging lifelong learning, which helps Nova Scotians make better-informed decisions that affect their economic and social well-being. Government will continue to support the work of libraries as part of the department's focus on communities. “

At our meeting we presented copies of our **Partnership Report** to you and other personnel in the department. It has now been 3 months since we met. We would like to know if you have read this report and whether the department will be leveraging the well-developed partnerships described in the report as you look for “for ways to increase links between the many programs and services offered to Nova Scotians as we focus on building strong and supportive communities that meet the needs of their citizens.” (Statement of Mandate).

As we have in the past, LBANS and the public libraries we represent, strive to work cooperatively with government but we need to know that the work we are doing is understood and the partnerships we have developed across Nova Scotia recognized as a key factor in the social and economic life of our communities. Therefore, we would ask for feedback on our report and whether we can expect to see new initiatives from the Department of CCH flow from our commitment to the partnership model.

Your truly,

pp. Mary MacLellan, LBANS President

cc: Jennifer Evans