

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

Present: Ms. Marie Hogan Loker, Chair
Mr. Tom Sheppard, Vice Chair
Ms. Tina Henngiar
Ms. Debra MacLean
Councillor Susan MacLeod
Mrs. Wilma Stewart-White
Mr. Don Zwicker
Ms. H.M. Janet Clark, Secretary/Treasurer
Mrs. Lynn Robart, Recorder
Ms. Cathy MacDonald, Mobile/Technical Services Librarian
Ms. Jeff Mercer, Branch/Extension/Systems Librarian

Councillor Heather Getson, Councillor Beverlee Brown, Ms. Clara Dugas, Mr. Alan Wilson, Mrs. Cindy Bruhm, Councillor Robert Myra, and Councillor Karen Dempsey were unable to attend.

Ms. Anne Everts attended on behalf of the Staff Association.

There was no quorum.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

.01 RBR Developments

Teresa Workman reported that RBR Developments are on schedule with the fundraising feasibility study. RBR plans to speak to approximately forty people. We will send the first 25 letters to individuals in the next couple of days, then we will set up appointments. We will send a second round of letters once we have replies from the first. Staff and Board decided on the list of people to interview.. The study will be complete by the end of April.

.02 Bridgewater Library

Chair Hogan Loker reported that she, Tom Sheppard, Janet Clark and Jeff Mercer attended the briefing session of the Bridgewater Town Council on Monday March 21st. Their main purpose was to request specific support for the new Bridgewater Library. Janet Clark felt the questions indicated Council was now accepting the need for a library. Tom Sheppard felt they were just going through the motions and being polite. Mayor Publicover expressed regret that there does not seem to be a suitable place on King Street. Councillor Marlin asked whether it is essential to include Headquarters; Janet Clark explained the reasons that we want this. Teresa said she spoke to Joan Courtney (Real Estate, Canadian Tire); Joan will not have any role unless this is a financial transaction. Some Councillors had the impression that Sobey's (Atlantic Shopping Centres) had given the Tantalton

Library to Halifax; Town Manager Ken Smith said, no they built the building to specifications and are leasing it to HRM. Ken Smith and Teresa have talked about pursuing the purchase of the Canadian Tire building. Councillor Susan MacLeod asked whether we have invited the Town Council to Headquarters and to the Bridgewater Library. Janet and others said, yes we have, though it was some time ago – few came, and when we invited them to the Bridgewater Library they did not stay for discussion. Teresa added that the Town Council has never actually stated that they are interested in the idea of a new Library. Tina Hennigar reported on *Imagine Bridgewater* which will be asking for input on what people want for the Bridgewater area (through a survey); maybe we could tie in to that. Marie plans to phone or visit Mayor Carroll Publicover to follow up on Monday's briefing session. The Board asked that Marie write a letter to the Town of Bridgewater asking them to set aside money in the 2007-2008 budget for a library, saying that we like the Canadian Tire location but will consider others if they want to propose them.

.03 Flu pandemic awareness

Janet Clark reported that she had contacted Brian Keizer from the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg and Bea Renton, Town of Lunenburg, about preparations for a pandemic. Brian will contact Janet to discuss the Library's role and other preparations. Don Zwicker added that he had mentioned this to Brian as well.

.04 Funding for a new Mobile

Janet Clark had prepared charts showing how the cost of a new Mobile Branch might be split among our municipalities. The Province provides no capital funding for libraries. The Members agreed to ask the municipalities to consider funding a new Mobile branch, the cost to be allotted in the same proportions as shares in the Library's operating budget and divided over two fiscal years. Susan MacLeod felt that her Council would be reluctant to fund this since Queens supports a Town Branch already. Members discussed: the amounts the Province and Municipalities pay toward operating budget, the fact that all municipalities, even those not served by Mobiles, contribute to their operation because the cost is part of the Library's operating cost, where Mobile stops are and how much they are used. Members will send comments on the draft letter about this (sent with the Notice of Meeting) to Marie Hogan Loker or Janet. If the request is to be considered this year, we must make it soon.

ITEMS RECEIVED

.01 Federal Minister of Human Resources and Social Development Monte Solberg

Federal Minister of Human Resources and Social Development Monte Solberg replied to Chair Hogan Loker's letter regarding funding for literacy programs.

.02 Hon. Carolyn Bolivar-Getson, MLA, Lunenburg West

The Hon. Carolyn Bolivar-Getson wrote to the Minister of Education Karen Casey supporting more funding for public libraries.

.03 Vicki Conrad, MLA, Queens

Vicki Conrad wrote to the Minister of Education Karen Casey supporting more funding for public libraries.

ANNUAL TRANSFER FUNDS FROM GIFT ACCOUNT TO OPERATING ACCOUNT

Motion: “THAT \$14,480.35 be taken from the Library's donation reserve investments and credited to Operating Accounts, for expenditures on library materials for the fiscal year 2006-2007.”

Tom Sheppard moved and Susan MacLeod seconded. Sheppard, MacLeod, Zwicker, Hennigar, MacLean, Stewart-White voted in favour. Motion requires a majority vote in favour from Board members to take effect.

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT - see attached

CHIEF LIBRARIAN –RETIREMENT AND RECRUITMENT

As the famous Tom Sheppard says, “When you are retired everyday is a storm day!”

The Board agreed to advertise in all local papers: *Chester Clipper, Advance, Bridgewater Bulletin, Lunenburg Progress Enterprise, Queens County Times and Chronicle Herald*. They will also post the advertisement on the Canadian Library Association and SSRL Web Sites. A Committee will review the job description, advertisement, and applications and set up interviews. Janet Clark will help write the job description and ad, but will not be involved in selection for interview nor interviews. Provincial Librarian Jennifer Evans will be part of the process. Our Executive Committee includes Marie Hogan Loker, Tom Sheppard, Don Zwicker, and Cindy Bruhm. Janet agreed to contact Cindy to see whether she could commit the time to this process. The Board agreed to ask staff for topics of interest and suggested questions to ask the candidates. Possible deadline for applications would be late May.

LBANS REPORT

Marie Hogan Loker brought to the attention of the Board the recent article in the *Chronicle Herald*. Pictou-Antigonish Regional Librarian Eric Stackhouse pointed out the Department of Education's lack of attention to the needs of public libraries in Nova Scotia. Marie feels that the Minister of Education has handed the Library file over to the Deputy Minister of Education Dennis Cochran.

OTHER

- Don Zwicker mentioned that he had called Headquarters with a computer problem which Nicholas Conrad solved.
- Cathy MacDonald reported to the Board that Anne's retirement "do" would be May 6th at the Knot Pub in Lunenburg at 6:00 p.m. More details to follow. Wilma Stewart-White volunteered to assist with this event.

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting will be April 17, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. Don Zwicker will be unable to attend.

**Public Relations Report
March 2007**

Our contract with RBR has been signed and the Feasibility Study is officially underway. Staff and board members reviewed and completed the introductory letter and the case for support and are now working on our list of potential interviewees. These will be submitted March 13 and a follow-up telephone interview with RBR will give us a final list.

Postcard campaign: We revised and reprinted postcards designed to encourage Bridgewater Town Council to put the library at the top of its budget priorities list. Postcards were distributed at the Bridgewater branch by staff and by Friends. Several Friends members pledged to attend a council meeting and/or write letters of support.

Freedom to Read Week: We implemented a unique campaign to promote Freedom to Read Week this year. We partnered with Carousel Books to gather more than 12 books that have been either challenged or withdrawn from public libraries. Among the titles were the Harry Potter books by J.K. Rowling, the Goosebumps series and Huckleberry Finn. The books were stamped with a pink sticker bearing the words, 'Take me' and 'Free a challenged book' bookplate. Books were left in local coffee shops, restaurants and other public places. Each book had an identification number registered with bookcrossing.com to guide readers to the Freedom to Read website. The campaign received excellent publicity highlighting the Library's role in promoting and supporting freedom of expression.

March Break: A packed week of programming has been organized for March Break at the three town branches. Programs include Dr. Seuss storytime, Pirate Party, a Teddy Bear's Picnic, Jewellery making workshop and Cartoon and Comic Book Drawing. All programs w

Recreation Guide: The next edition of the Recreation Guide will be available soon. We continue to find this method of program promotion most effective, as is our regular weekly column in the Lighthouse Log. Publicizing the need for advance registration for programs ensures that we are running most sessions at capacity.

Author Readings: In a bit of serendipity, our next author reading funded by the Canada Council for the Arts will feature Kenneth J. Harvey, winner of this year's Writer's Trust fiction award. He will read at the Lunenburg Library, or the Lunenburg Academy, in early May. We have submitted an additional application to Canada Council for the remainder of this year. A portion of this grant, if successful, will fund authors at the inaugural Port Medway Children's Readers Festival and two additional adult author readings in the fall. We just learned that Canada Council has given us additional funding to augment our current reading series so we'll be able to bring in another two or more writers.

Respectfully submitted
Teresa Workman