

• BELMONT PUBLIC LIBRARY
MASSACHUSETTS

BELMONT,

• MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
14, 2008

OCTOBER

• Chair Hal Shubin called this special meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:32 p.m. Present were Director Maureen Conners, Trustees Elaine Alligood, Mary Keenan, Matt Lowrie, David Rich, and Heli Tomford. Also attending was Virginia Jordan of the Friends of Benton Library. Benton supporters Bill Reynolds and Holly Reynolds stayed for the beginning of the meeting.

• The minutes for the meeting of September 24, 2008, were approved as amended – the addition of David Rich’s signature as acting secretary.

• New Business

• Budget – Director Conners informed the trustees of the town’s mandate to prepare three budgets for FY10 – a level services budget, a level funded budget, and a 5% reduction budget. FY10 budgets are due November 3rd. Director Conners noted the 5% increase in water fees, 10% in sewer fees, the current \$178,000 town shortfall, and the expected \$4M town shortfall for FY10. Trustees Keenan and Shubin will serve on the library budget sub-committee.

• Work on renovating the Circulation Desk area is complete.

• Benton Library

• Next Tuesday, October 21st, at 7:30 p.m. in the Assembly Room, the trustees will host a public forum on the future of the Benton branch library. The purpose of this forum is to gather information to inform the trustees in their vote on the future of Benton. This vote will be held at a subsequent trustees meeting on the overall budget. Invitations have been issued to the Board of Selectmen and to the Warrant Committee as both groups have spoken on the issue of closing the Benton branch. The branch librarians will also be invited to attend. The agenda for that forum was discussed. The issue will be framed with a presentation of statistics appropriate to the situation – circulation and costs. Trustee Alligood spoke to the necessity of including major repairs needed if the building is to remain open.

• There will be opportunity for public comments – with 5 minutes per speaker. Speakers will be limited to one comment time per person until all speakers have been heard.

• Virginia Jordan presented a proposal to the trustees from the Friends of the Benton Library. This focused on how that group could work to enhance the library’s offerings.

• Site

• The trustees met with the Board of Selectmen (BOS) on October 6th to ask for assistance in clarification of the issues relating to a site on the north side of Concord Avenue. The (BOS) directed the trustees to work with the Capital Projects

Overview Committee (CPOC). Selectman Chair Firenze surprised the trustees and Friends of the Library with the news from an executive session meeting of the BOS and the CPOC that a private individual has expressed interest in purchasing land and building a library which would be leased to the town.

- The date for the budget meeting will be set as one of the following – October 28, October 30, or November 6th.

- The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m. on a motion by Trustee Tomford, seconded by Trustee Rich, and passed unanimously.

- Respectfully submitted,

- Mary E. Keenan

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