North Hampton Public Library

Board of Trustees Meeting

Monday, March 6th, 2017

North Hampton Town Hall (televised)

Present:  Susan Leonardi, Chair;  Judy Day, Secretary; Kelly Parrott, Treasurer; Susan Grant, Library Director; Cynthia Swank, ( present in audience) President of the Friends of the Library

I  The meeting was called to order by Ms. Leonardi at 7:00 pm.

II The minutes from January 31st and February 16th were approved as written.

III New Business

a) Lavallee Brensinger Pre-Bond Vote Services Agreement with Ron Lamarre

The board requested that architect Lamarre come to the Board to give an overview of his services and answer questions for the Board.   Ron’s presentation included slides of various library’s done by LB which presented different styles and options for libraries.  Common themes were:  lots of windows and natural light; “artifacts” from the town’s past that could be incorporated into the library; additions that blended the old buildings with new; buildings which could not be seen from the front.  Ron also showed drawings of potential ways to add on to the current library.

Mr. Lamarre noted, as did Ms. Grant and Ms. Day that questions will be asked concerning the potential placement of the fire station if the library is planned to be placed on the Homestead Property as a new building.  Ron indicated that he has worked on the North Hampton Town Complex last year and the year before. Consequently, he is aware of many of the issues that have arisen over the years.  Ron gave many examples of solutions to possible problems. These included ideas such as putting a roof on top of a roof, sharing a parking lot, putting on additions that are dissimilar to the present library.  It was noted that an addition can often be more expensive than a new building.

Ms. Parrott made a motion to have the Board accept phase one and phase two. She indicated that a motion had passed at a previous meeting that would allow the Board to go forward with Phase One of the contract. She felt that this new motion, including both motions made sense given the obvious relationship between phases one and two.  The contract indicated that each phase would cost ten thousand dollars.  There was no second to Ms. Parrott’s motion but a discussion did occur.

Ms. Parrott indicated that deciding to endorse both phases was the best way to move forward and the best way to support the library and, consequently, the town.  Ms Leonardi expressed strong support for Ms. Parrott’s positions.  Ms. Day did not agree. She felt that deciding to sign for the second phase was premature. She also felt that it would, in a sense, be encumbering the new Board which will be constituted after the election which is on Tuesday, the fourteenth of March.  There was considerable discussion of these two perspectives.

Ms. Parrott withdrew her motion which included adopting both phases. The prior motion to sign the contract for the first phase and wait until that phase is completed to sign the second phase will stand.

b)  NHPL Friends February Minutes

    Ms. Leonardi indicated that she would like to hear about most recent Friends meeting, specifically regarding the progress of the Craig Room.  Ms. Grant explained that new paint colors have been chosen for walls and some of the wooden furniture.  A new floor will be laid in about a week.  The floor will be paid for by a donation from Judy Day and Larry Miller.  All are enthusiastic about the changes.  The room will be used as an art gallery for local artists as it was in the past prior to the roof leak.  The Craig room will also be used for the children’s activities and as a meeting room. Therefore, these changes will make a more pleasant environment.  Ms. Grant is also speaking with a cabinet maker in order to have a custom cabinet made for the Craig Room. This cabinet will be for the wiring and other components of the technology.

IV  The Treasurer’s report was presented by Ms. Grant and accepted.

V  The Librarian’s Report was presented by Ms. Grant.  She commented on the success of programs held during the month of February—though there was some programming disruption because of the weather. She also commented that a bench in Memory of Sally Marcotte was placed on the front lawn of the library and is a great addition.  Board members and Ms Grant spoke in praise of Ms. Marcotte’s monetary gift to the library and said that she will be greatly missed by all.  The report was accepted by the Board.

VI  The Youth Librarian’s Report,  prepared by Youth Librarian, Connie Margowsky, was presented.  Positive comments were made about the fact that students from the North Hampton School are now being dropped off at the library, after school, for activities.  Ms. Grant indicated that this has happened before but not on a consistent basis. She indicated that she and Ms. Margowsky were working out the details of this process.

VII Old Business

a) Water Testing   Ms Day indicated that her husband has obtained the kit for water testing and that he will be taking a water sample on Wednesday. Judy will drive it to the company which will analyze the water and send back a report on the results.

b)  Policies to be reviewed was a topic not discussed

c)  March Vote/Warrant Article  It was stated that the petitioned library warrant article is # 30 on the ballot.

VIII The date for the next meeting will be determined after next week’s town election in order to include the person who will be replacing Ms. Parrott in that decision. Ms. Parrott’s term is up.

Ms Parrott was praised by the Board for her six years of exceptionally hard work and the progress that has been made during her two terms.  She was thanked profusely and. She indicated that she will miss being on the Board but is looking forward to continuing to work for the library and for the Library Foundation.  She was given a present in appreciation.

IX  The meeting was adjourned by Ms. Leonardi at 8:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Day, Secretary

Please see corresponding attachment: response from Ron Lamarre to BOT questions