

Board of Library Trustees
Provincetown, Massachusetts

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Minutes of Regular Meeting

Thursday, March 18, 1999 in the Police Station Conference Room.

Attending: Maghi Geary, Chair; Arthur Pike, Secretary;

Anita Berman; James Cole; Bonnie Steele McGhee; and

Debra DeJonker-Berry, Director.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:02 am. She then asked for statements from the public.

Public Statement: John Bennett introduced himself briefly and spoke about how he had decided to take out papers as a candidate for election to this Board; he expressed his own personal desire to keep the Library at its present location at Freeman Street.

Minutes: Because minutes had been distributed previously, James Cole moved that we accept the minutes of the Special Meeting of March 1, 1999, as presented. This motion was seconded and passed with a vote of 5-0.

Bylaw Revision/Rules of Procedure: The Secretary had distributed copies of our own Bylaws and a set of Rules of Procedure now in use by the Provincetown School Committee. The Secretary also asked for and received approval to share copies of these Rules of Procedures with the public present at this meeting. The Chair noted the need for rules to make possible more business-like conduct of our meetings, especially when visitors have made business difficult to conduct. She suggested a walk-through of our present Bylaws, together with possible adaptations from the Rules of Procedure of the School Committee. The Secretary noted that the rigidity of parliamentary procedures helps to keep emotions in check so that business can move ahead efficiently. He also noted that everyone needs to understand the difference in procedures for a business meeting and those procedures that hold for a Public Hearing.

The Chair then moved through the structure of our Bylaws, observing places that we could update. She noted that we could suggest choices out of the School Committee's Rules, with a first vote on these choices at this meeting. The changes to the Bylaws would then have to be voted a second time at our next meeting. The Secretary stated that it might be simpler to draft an adaptation of the School Committee's Procedures, which we could adopt on a single vote, leaving our Bylaws unchanged at this time. An advantage would be that the Procedures can be changed at any given meeting, without the delay of two votes as required in our Bylaws. After considerable discussion of the specific

changes needed in the Procedures, Bonnie Steele McGhee moved that the Secretary prepare a draft from our discussions and circulate it well before our next meeting. The motion was seconded and carried 5-0.

In trying to keep everybody up to date, the Director asked that the Trustees check their Library box regularly.

Preparation for Town Meeting/Special Town Meeting: The Chair called attention to our Article 21 of Special Town Meeting: the funding for obtaining schematic drawings of the possible use of the Heritage Museum as our Public Library. She asked that Jim Cole make the presentation; her request was agreed to.

The Director distributed copies to the Trustees and to the visitors of a new Library goals brochure, which describes the problems of our current building and suggests a possible move to the Heritage Museum. The present Freeman building could house our Town's archival collection and most of the collection from the Heritage building. Although this proposal is now only a rough outline, it shows possibilities for the future. The Supporters of the Library will make a selected mailing of these brochures before Town Meeting.

Other Business: The Chair and the Director both pointed out that our exterior painting contract has not moved forward - again. Anita Berman moved that the Board empower the Secretary to write a letter to the Town Manager, strongly urging action, with a copy to the Director of Public Works. The motion was seconded and approved 5-0. A copy of the letter is appended (Attachment 1).

The Chair pointed out that our request for two additional parking spaces for the Library was turned down at the Parking Hearing. Additional discussion indicated that we might make a direct request to the Selectmen for special consideration. It was left to the Secretary to try to send a letter to the Selectmen, with a request to be included on their agenda at a forthcoming meeting.

The Director called attention to a hearing on April 1 by the Zoning Board of Appeals to consider an entertainment license at the Lobster Pot. She also showed a sample of the new Library book bags, now on sale by the Friends of the Library. She reported that she has received from the DPW a new schedule of hours during which she can expect custodial service from the Town. It is not clear yet whether the 13 hours a week are going to be satisfactory.

Arthur Pike agreed to present, with the Director, our Article 21 to the rescheduled hearing by the Finance Committee

It was tentatively suggested that the next meeting should be held at 9 am on Monday, March 29, 1999, at a place to be arranged.

Adjournment:

Bonnie Steele McGhee moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded and passed 5-0. Adjournment was at 10:20 am.

Arthur L. Pike,

Secretary.