

VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

November 17, 2015

The Meeting of the Village Improvement Association was called to order by President Alan Olenick at 6:33 p.m. on November 17, 2015 in the Connie Sacco Room of the Main Library.

Present were Gert Beckwith, Michelle Bernardi, Ted Brown, Patricia Donnelly, Joe Fortino, John Galvin, Charles Gunning, William Heffernan, Curtis Hodgkins, William Lang, Alan Olenick, Susan Walker, Director Colleen Bailie and Assistant Director Claudia Volano. Absent were: Pamela Gardner, William Heffernan, John Lewis, and Mary Malenda. Also present were staff members Samantha Lee, Bernadette Neidermier, and Amanda Gilbertie.

Minutes of October 20, 2015 meeting were approved as corrected (spelling error) by motion of W. Lang, seconded by C. Gunning, and carried.

Staff Reports. S. Lee: numbers are down because students are back in school. She taught a successful class on how to stitch on a banana (picture was enclosed). Kids love the Legos which are available for their use.

B. Neidermier: working on collaboration with Ward-Heitmann story time. 5th grade students from Carrigan are coming again. Seth Haley students coming for a story time.

A. Gilbertie: is still weeding; music books were given to organizations who were happy to receive them. Her focus is on programming for 2016. Her computer hour one-on-one may be too long; many people only need 15 minutes for computer help. The standing desks are working well. She is helping with technical issues; she and Director updated Cassie at Main and branches. There will be an adult coloring program in 2016.

Director's Report: C. Bailie: the first "all staff meeting" went well and will be held quarterly to be sure all personnel are on the same page. She will meet monthly with librarians. IANH grant movies well attended (58 people) on 11/13. Story time will be 11/21. Our credit card company is dropping us because we do not generate enough revenue; she is looking into another company.

Assistant Director: C. Volano: no additional report

Accountant: Michael Solakian reported on audit of year ending June 2015. No significant deficiencies to be reported. Biggest change: the stock market did not do as well as previous year. Motion by J. Galvin, seconded by C. Gunning, and carried to accept the auditor's report.

Board went into Executive Session at 7:15 with Attorney Vincent Farisello by motion of W.Lang, seconded by C. Gunning and carried and returned to regular session at 8:15 by motion of W. Lang, seconded by S. Walker, and carried.

Treasurer's report: C. Gunning:

Friends of Library: P. Donnelly: Attendance at November meeting was low and time of meeting may be revisited. Museum passes were approved. There will be a planning meeting on Nov. 18th She attended Conn. Friends of Library annual meeting last week.

One item discussed was advocacy: Friends and Board are encouraged to approach the City Council to try to advocate for more money from the City.

Committees:

No reports

Old Business:

Fence C Volano: has called Geico because promised check has not been received. Allstate representative came and is reconfiguring the figures because of depreciation.

Professional Position vacancies: Tech: first interviews were held with good candidates; second interviews will be first week in December and she is hopeful a person will be in position the first of the year. Accountant Josie Minchella has been hired and is presently on a previously planned vacation.

New Business:

Tentative Agreement with Union Motion to approve was made by C. Gunning, seconded by S. Walker, and carried.

Holiday closings: day before Thanksgiving, libraries close early. Christmas eve libraries close early. Because Christmas is on a Friday this year; Director wants to close Saturday Dec. 26th also. These matters were approved by consensus.

Holiday party: will be January 8, 2015 at Biagettis and the Board is encouraged to attend. Motion made by C. Gunning, seconded by M. Bernardi, and carried to pay for employees' meals at this party.

Outside Lights at Ora Mason: New outside lights have been installed and the old lights (which attract birds) should be removed. Motion made by C. Gunning, seconded by M. Bernardi, and carried to take up to \$1,400 from Morgan Stanley account for Ora Mason for lighting repair.

Letter received from City of West Haven requesting library to reduce budget by 5%.

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:45 p.m. by W. Lang, seconded by G. Beckwith.
Minutes taken by Gert Beckwith

NEXT MEETING WILL BE DECEMBER 15, 2015 AT 6:30 P.M.