

The Holmes Public Library

470 Plymouth Street

Halifax, MA 02338

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Directors Report

June 2010

Planning

Lisa Arcuri, Luanne Teller, Jean Gallant and I met to implement the planning process, and the first meeting of the Community Planning Committee is scheduled for Saturday, June 26 at 9:00 AM. Most phone calls have been made, and so far at least eleven community members have agreed to participate. Survey responses have begun to trickle in and compilation will begin after June 5th.

Bylaws Revision

The Town Bylaws section regarding the Building Committee's role has been inserted into the revised Trustees' bylaws and are ready for the Trustees' final approval.

Building Program: Construction Grant Application & Building Program

Because the funding formula is based on economic need (Halifax ranks 462 of about 700), the State will fund the base 60% of the **total** eligible costs*¹ **plus** an additional 9.96% based on economic need **plus an 2-3.5%** based on a LEED Green Incentive. So, Halifax can reasonably expect to receive at least **70%** of the project costs in grant funds.

Time-line

Write Building Program—This Summer

Letter of Intent—October 5, 2010

Hire Architect to Prepare Schematic Designs—This Fall

Construction Grant Application—January 27, 2011

Town Meeting Vote #1²--June 16, 2011

MBLC votes grant awards and waiting list status—July 14, 2011

Town Meeting Vote #2³—*Dependent on whether awarded a grant (January 2012) or a waiting list status*

Construction Begins—*Dependent on whether awarded a grant (January 2013) or a waiting list status*

Trustees Policy Handbook—Annual Calendar: In your packet, is a draft calendar

Building Update

Construction is being planned for later this summer, hopefully after Summer Reading but before school is in session (very tight window.) Gerry Elliot is planning on having the crane work done over a weekend when we are closed. The extra good news is that the HVAC units will include humidity control!

Town Meeting/Budget Approval

Town Meeting was very well-run, and the only disappointment was the 2 ½ over-ride failure for the COA project⁴.

¹ Those project costs directly related to implementing interior and exterior aspects of an eligible project: acquisition of property, planning, study & design costs, design services, site preparation, construction and fixes capital equipment of an approved public library project.

² Town Meeting approval of preliminary design and permission to apply for, accept and expend grant funds

³ Library secures local funding, i.e., local match and accepts grant award

⁴ I spoke with Mary Ellen Stevens who is confident that the project will return for another vote. I also wondered whether it might strengthen their project if the library (and the potential for library construction grant funds) were included in the COA project, but, unfortunately, the land the COA is planning to use is restricted to programs for seniors.

The Library's budget passed Town Meeting, and the budget should be stable so long as the State does not cut municipal support any further.

Friends Book and Bake Sale

The Book and Bake Sale was held on Saturday. The Friends did a fantastic job organizing the event, like a well-run machine! Bob Powell, the carpentry teacher at the Silver Lake Regional High School, and three students, James Harkins, Kyle Nathan, and Josh Reed completed the new oak book shelf for the Friends. It is absolutely beautiful. The shelf will help the Friends continue to raise needed funds for library programs. We are extremely fortunate to have such a dedicated group of Friends!

Summer Reading Program

Attached is a flier listing all the Children's programs this summer. Children's Librarian Marie Coady has planned a very busy summer for Halifax children! The theme, "Once upon a summer at the Library" is a Halifax modification of the state's recycling theme in the sense that Marie is recycling fairy tales. In addition, Marie has set up the puppet stage for Company H and has given us a taste of the new puppet theater. The performances will be an inter-generational treat that we are all looking forward to.

Adult Literacy Coordinator

As a follow up to the trial policy approved by the Trustees last summer, we are very fortunate that tutor Elaine Wissell has received approval from the federal Citizens for Citizens Program to work at the Library. Officially, her title will be Literacy Coordinator, and the Citizens program will pay her to work twenty hours per week on a two-year program. The Library's commitment is supervision, support for the program in terms of space for tutoring, publicity, some basic materials and supplies as well as other support, including help with grant writing. We will work with Jeanne Annino of the Literacy Tutor Training Program at the Plymouth Public Library. The Citizens program will allow Elaine to receive more training and tutor adults at our library. Ultimately, she will start a network with other community organizations in the Greater Halifax area to coordinate tutors and learners at other sites.

Proposed Work from Home Policy: I'd like to table this in order to do more research.

Equipment

We are working with SAILS to install a PC Reservation system for the public computers. This software will monitor how long our pc's are used by patrons and schedule new users so that access is given more fairly. We will also be upgrading two public pcs replacing two that have been performing very poorly. We still have problems with the "blue screen of death" messages on the young adult computers and are hoping that it is a network problem that will be addressed soon. Because the town has no way to pay for supplies either by credit or debit, we do not fully meet the Xerox free color printer program qualifications. The Staff at SAILS have agreed to serve as an intermediary for us, and I am hopeful that we will have the Xerox color copier/printer online for July 1

Peg McCormick Memorial Garden Clean-Up

I want to thank Trustees Diane Wilmarth and Carol Julien for their efforts on the grounds clean-up. It has given us the push we need to add this project to our annual calendar, and Jean and I will be asking the Friends to help us coordinate this as an annual event. It would be fantastic if the many Scouts groups were also to include these gardens on their calendar as a yearly event as well.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra DeJonker-Berry,
Library Director