

South Berwick LAB Minutes, December 14, 2009

Members Present:

Mamie Ney, Library Director
Peter Howell
Tim Benoit
Sandy Agrafiotis

Elaine Pridham is working on bylaws and will report at next meeting

Discussion:

1) Role of board:

Serve as a sounding board for librarian's programs and ideas
Listen to ideas circulating in the town about library issues and report to librarian

Tim noted that there should be better communication between the town employees and boards and committees. Mamie expressed concern about her not having been informed of some decisions made by various groups recently. Though this failure of communication was clearly not intentional, it created some difficult situations for her.

2) Current situation with mold in the basement of the Young Street property, the remediation and likely costs proposed to the Town Council. The Town will seek grants to fund this work.

3) Holiday hours

The library will be closed on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve as well as the holidays.

4) Priorities for library director and LAB discussions in near future

-Budget for materials, staff time, book budget
(book budget has been flat for 2 years
supply and journal costs are up - cost of Library Journal increased but Mamie was about to get a special price of \$99 which was lower than cost last year

-Web site
Molly Colman is working on site

-Collections development policy
need to find ways to handle challenges from patrons regarding the inclusion of certain books in the collection

5) Recent activities

Home for the Holidays
60 adults, 66 children

(Mamie was quite concerned that a handicapped young man was unable to get into the library)

Agreement was achieved among North Berwick, Berwick and South Berwick to provide reciprocal cards.

A grant was written through the NH Charitable Foundation for each of the 3 above named libraries to obtain new circulation systems to enable them to put catalogues on line so that patrons would be able access collections and reserve materials from home. This grant was not funded.

A grant was written and funded through the Maine Humanities Council for themed discussions, entitled "Let's Talk about It". The grant provides books and a facilitator. The program will begin in early March.

Another grant written through the Eliot/Marshwood Education Foundation for a community reads program was not funded.

Minutes submitted by Sandy Agrafiotis