

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING
James Blackstone Memorial Library
Wednesday, March 1, 2017
6 p.m.

Trustees (Present): Sandra Baldwin, Keira Cervoni, Norman Dahl, Jan Day, Polly Fitz, David Henderson, Ed Kirk, Beth Law, Rick Mahoney, Andy McKirdy, Frank Twohill

Trustees (Absent): Michalah Bracken, Tom Perrone, Robin Sandler, Gina Wells

Guests: Matt Hughes, Ambassador; Hatsie Mahoney, President of the Friends of the Blackstone Library

Staff: Karen Jensen, Director; Katy Dillman, Development Librarian; Whitney Gayle, Reference Librarian/Program Coordinator; Carly Lemire, Youth Services supervisor; Gennett Grinnell, Technical Services Supervisor

Andy McKirdy called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Public Comments: none

2. Additions to the agenda: Ed Kirk added the Hogwarts fall fundraiser to the agenda.

3. Approval of minutes (February)—action: Rick Mahoney made a motion to approve the minutes. David Henderson seconded. The motion was passed.

4. Director's Report: Highlights included a series of events called "Welcoming Branford", a project encouraging members of the community to share personal stories accompanied by photographs; and discussion of proposed State budget cuts that will directly affect library services.

5. Treasurer's Report: The budget remains steady, and spending is as appropriated.

6. Committee Reports—only as required

Finance Committee—

Receipt of funds from Cosgrove bequest: The library recently received a \$50,000 bequest from the Daniel Cosgrove estate. It is resolved that: "The Blackstone Trustees express their sincere appreciation for the generous bequest of the late Daniel Cosgrove and the significant contribution to advancing the upcoming renovation project that it represents." David Henderson made a motion to approve the resolution. Norman Dahl seconded. The motion was passed.

Budget Meeting with First Selectman and Director of Finance, February 10: Rick and Karen Jensen presented the library budget, which was well received.

Board of Finance Budget Hearing: The meeting is scheduled for March 23 at 7 p.m. in the upstairs room in the Firehouse. Board members are invited to attend.

Building Committee—

Report on the progress of renovation

Staff meeting with Amanda Cleveland of Silver Petrucelli: Karen and the supervisors met with Ms. Cleveland to review the renovation plans and think of ways the revised floor plan can best serve the public and staff. Another meeting is scheduled for March 2.

Status of RFP for Construction Manager: A draft was sent to the Town Engineer for review. The final version should be ready next week.

Town Center Revitalization Review Board Meeting 3/8: A renovation presentation will be made by the architects, focusing on how the planned improvements will make the library more useful to the community.

Capital Campaign Committee—

Branford Community Foundation Matching Grant: The library has been awarded a matching grant of up to \$100,000 for our renovation. It was resolved that: “The Blackstone Trustees express their sincere appreciation to the Branford Community Foundation for its very generous matching grant to support the library’s upcoming renovation project and the opportunity it represents to draw increasing support for the project from the community-at-large.” Keira Cervoni made a motion to approve the resolution. Ed seconded the motion. All voted for approval.

Friends of the Blackstone Library Grant: Hatsie Mahoney reported that the Friends voted to give \$25,000 to the Capital Campaign. It was resolved that: The Blackstone Trustees extend their sincere appreciation to the Friends of the Blackstone Library for their generous pledge of support for the upcoming renovation project and for all that the Friends do each year to enhance the role of the Library as a community gathering place for information, learning and enrichment.” Jan Day made a motion to approve the resolution. Rick seconded. The motion was passed.

Branford Community Foundation Meeting March 6: The BCF board will meet with the Capital Campaign Committee to discuss the terms of the matching grant.

Development Committee—

Donor Reception rescheduled to March 12: The Jolly Beggars concert will take place Sunday afternoon, March 12 at 2 p.m., with a donor reception to follow.

Virtual Fundraiser: Ed discussed the possibility of emailing library promotional posters to a number of local retailers, asking them to promote and help sponsor raising funds for the renovation. The idea will be further explored later in the year.

Hogwarts: The Committee is bringing back the Hogwarts fundraiser on October 14 and 15. Volunteers are needed.

- 7. Presentation of “Uncover Branford”—Katy Dillman, Whitney Gayle, Karen Jensen, Carly Lemire:** The Blackstone’s Excite-inspired program called “Uncover Branford” was presented to the board.
- 8. Branford Education Hall of Fame:** The Board of Trustees are sponsoring 4 tickets to the Branford Education Hall of Fame dinner for our inductees Carly Lemire and Mary Lockery! The event is scheduled for April 20.
- 9. Next regular meeting—Wednesday, April 5—James Blackstone Memorial Library Auditorium**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.