

Westhampton Public Library Board of Trustees

February 10, 2016

7 p.m.

Judd Room Westhampton Library

1 North Rd Westhampton MA

In attendance: Carol McMurrich, Maureen Dempsey, Lynn Cooper, Aniko Giordano, Andrea Belanger, Mikki Nevins, Lynn Gingras, Barbara Pelissier, Steve Holt (through item 4)

1. **Call to Order** 7:00 sharp
2. **Minutes** - Page 3, correction: town hired HCOGG, amended. Minutes accepted unanimously with amended wording.
3. **Treasurer's Report**- Gift account \$18,652.59; Library Gift Account \$8,625.36; Deferred Town Monies \$44,070.18. Grand total is \$71,348.13
(Correction: State Aid Account- \$1,478.26 for a Grand Total of \$72,826.39).
4. **Report on lawn care from Steve Holt:** Integrated Pest Management: knowing soils, nutrients, chemicals to enhance, and chemicals to defer. First thing to work on is soil: soil here is pretty good. Adds organics to the soil to hold nutrients and water. Steve points out that a lawn is a crop: it's not natural to have grass, it will turn into woods or will be primarily weeds if you don't manage it.
Nutrients don't happen on their own unless you mulch clippings or pull plugs (which Steve has done to the library lawn 3 times). Soil is usually low on nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. Grass requires a certain amount of nitrogen to survive. Steve puts down a lower amount so that he can mow it once a week and mulch the clippings. For phosphorus, which leeches very easily, you can only put it in when you're tilling so that it will stay put. Potassium is very low (4-6) it makes the grass tougher.

Pesticides: to control crabgrass, broadgrass, or insects. What he uses is a coating on the fertilizer-- it's 0.01% of the bag. So he's putting approximately 3/4 lb. of crabgrass control down. It makes a gas vapor on the surface that does not let

the seeds germinate. It does not affect humans but it does not allow the seeds to pop open. The second pesticide (also included with the fertilizer) is for the broadleaves- dandelions, etc- it's similar. It controls the seed and burns the leaf. It works like chlorine where it burns the surface, and if the top can't work the bottom rots out. The brand he uses is called Lock Up.

On occasion-- insecticide. Uses very infrequently, and uses only on small sections. E.g. last spring an area 10x10 feet and it worked with less than 1/2 lb. of insecticide. Product is biodegradable after 3 weeks. Giordano asks if the insecticides affect beneficial insects or birds: Holt answers not that he knows of. Also points out that he is killing the bugs when they are really tiny and it's before birds and skunks start to eat them because they are so tiny.

Some of these chemicals are also found in organic products but you have to use it in larger quantities to get the nitrogen levels high enough. Pelissier points out that it might be worth spending more to keep the poisons out of the lawn. Holt points out that the chemicals in organic products are sometimes the same and not necessarily better/safe for people.

Best way to have a good lawn is to know what your soil is doing and take good care of it. Know your weeds, how and when to control them. Holt is putting down products that are appropriate for our crop and in amounts that are as small as possible. Know what your crop needs (nitrogen) and do all the best practices by educating the people who have the lawn. He is careful not to put down any insecticides if there are events planned. His goal is not a golf course-- just a nice, welcoming lawn for our events.

Holt: If you do a good Integrated Pest Management program it IS green. Dempsey points out: It's not just routine pesticide application: it's a study of what your problems are and using as little as possible.

IF PEOPLE KNOW FACTS THEY MAKE GOOD DECISIONS.

Dempsey points out that Holt is licensed to do all of those things.

5. **Director's Report-** see report. Nevins will bring some plug covers to the library as she has some extras.

Re: copier- Andrea Pichette will bring a check to town hall and make sure it goes to the library account.

RE: New policy for updated InterLibrary Loan policy: voted unanimously to accept Gingras' policy.

RE: Substitute Wage: Voted unanimously to accept \$12.00/hour

Trustees determine that Gingras should take the week following her wedding off and she will ask

6. **Friends Report-** More donations into Lyn Keating Programming Fund-- it's surpassed \$10,000 total! Also approved some money for Charlie Eisman (Insect Tracks) speaker's fee. Also approved some money for the concert series-- currently booking bands and contacting banks for donations. They think they will need no more than \$800 from the Friends. There is not a lot coming up so they will not meet in person again until May.

Suggestion that funding from Lyn Keating could be used for the Maker Space. Pelissier says that the library Facebook page looks great! Discussion of whether you have to have a Facebook account to see the page-- we think not. The Website will be more accessible to everyone.

Old Business

1. **Budget-** February 16 is the meeting with the Finance Committee. Dempsey is going to rework a little bit - there is no place to write what you actually GOT, it's just what you asked for. Cooper says that you should be putting in your approved budget, not your actual proposed budget.
2. **Solar Credits** – Patty has a complete file on the credits. Dempsey will bring up at the Finance Committee meeting. Aniko Giordano reports she has not gotten any information from Patty, and now Giordano is working with Phil. Points out that the Finance Committee is not aware of what the library is

generating. Gingras just received a check in the mail for \$2,695.68. The date on the check is 2/4/16. Dempsey points out that we will get the full 40 payments and perhaps will end up making more money because the points are worth more at this point in time. Dempsey knows that Phil is up to date, following it, and Patty has a line item for it, and has been working on it. So we think we should stop worrying about it and let it be a selectmen's issue.

Aniko is "off duty" for the solar issue and Lynn Gingras will deliver the check to Patty.

3. **CORI Checks** - Lynn Gingras is going to work on this. Lynn and Hilary have submitted. Dempsey suggests that Gingras would determine who else would need to be CORI checked. We decide volunteers do NOT need to be checked, but Nancy should and any volunteers who might be running a program where they are unsupervised with children.

New Business

1. Discussion of survey- Gingras shares that the draft sent is just a draft-- she is open to suggestion. She would like to send it in the month of March. They can be available at the library and also will / can be online. We add a line asking if folks live in Westhampton; also add to #5 Bell Tower as a source of information. We will post the link to the online survey in the Bell Tower and will put the surveys at the church, the town hall, the annex.
2. **Copier payments** Belanger reports best deal is refurbished 4035 Black-White copier. Rate for service and supplies (toner, everything but paper) is based on how many copies you make. Discuss that Refurbished is as good as new. Pelissier inquires as to whether there were many service calls outside of regular maintenance: we don't think so. Belanger adds that this copier is compatible with Google-- it's a seamless interface. Will also come with a stapler and sorter. Technicians will come out and network everything to our computers. Pelissier will bring the information to the friends and vote for the money. She will take the trustees recommendation.

3. Any other business to come before the meeting

Editing of Maureen's Report of the WPL.

Cooper brings up that the First Musical Monday is requesting of the friends to purchase 10-12 copies of the new Rise up Singing books. If we buy them from Joe Blumenthal we will get a discount. Pellissier says she will rally Friends to do an online vote to approve that.

Next meeting: March 10th, 7 PM.

Adjourn move to adjourn: 8:18.