

Sharon Public Library Board of Trustees  
Regular Session  
July 13, 2022

**Attendance:**

Trustees in person: Carolyn Weeks, Cheryl Weinstein, Sarah Windman, Cheryl Rosenfeld

Trustees on Zoom: Wendy MacArthur, Sherrie King

Library Staff on Zoom: Lee Ann Amend (Library Director)

Guests: Ira Miller, Richard Gelerman; on Zoom, Gordon Gladstone, Chuck Goodman

The meeting was called to order by Cheryl Weinstein at 7:37 p.m.

**Request for new legal representation**

Motion: Move that the Trustees request of the Select Board that the Select Board allow the Trustees to hire their own counsel for any Trustee-related business or projects and that the chair submit this request to the Select Board. So moved by Sarah, second by Carolyn.

Discussion:

Dick: Thank you for withdrawing the memorandum and canceling the meeting with the Select Board and apologizing for the memo. I am here because I want the Trustees to understand that the memorandum was factually incorrect in substantive ways and the conclusion you made was unfounded. I want to defend his reputation.

Cheryl W: We have withdrawn our letter, so there is no need to discuss it.

Dick: I want to make a presentation and answer questions.

You wrote that for two years that I worked against the Library. What I was always trying to do is to resolve a dispute in the community. I thought I could do that. I never got into this to harm the library but to try to avoid litigation and have a better outcome with the neighborhood. You wrote that I did not understand the Dover Amendment. I did, and have attached 4 documents. The ZBA has the right to require reasonable restrictions on the plans. I felt a resolution would be to purchase the Freeman property. We worked many hours on this, until I was told it was no longer on the table. You have to have the facts before putting a letter out in the public domain. You should have called and told us how you felt. You are entitled to representation. You have to work it out with Fred, since I am the Town Counsel. He pays the bills.

I am not here to regain my position as counsel to the Trustees. I need to defend my reputation. I have no idea why you didn't call me.

Cheryl W: This is not personal, and was not meant to be. We thought we needed to explain why we were making this request.

Cheryl R: Going forward, there would be a potential conflict of interest.

Dick: Yes, there is a conflict of interest. Going forward I don't need to represent you.

Cheryl W: We apologize for the way we handled the request.

Sarah: We are desperate to get this new library, watching this current building fall apart. It didn't occur to us that we were doing anything wrong; we just want to explain why to the Select Board, which in the past has not supported us.

Ira Miller: I wish more towns operated like this. This open and honest exchange of information, your move to apologize and to allow Dick to present his case; it seems we've moved forward.

Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes of June 22 meeting approved by consensus.

### **Treasurer**

- Bank of Canton account at \$1,941; Eastern Bank regular account balance \$546.37.

### **Budget**

- At a FinCom meeting, Chuck gave us a big plug that we spend within our means, that we save money.

### **Friends**

- We have 2 new members, looking for a chair.

### **Foundation**

- Someone donated \$100 through the website.

### **Standing Building Committee**

- New library--nothing is happening
- Waiting for a report outlining what would have to be done if we don't get a new library and have to stay in this building. Then we will have to meet with the town about insurance.

### **Public Relations**

Positivity Campaign and events in the building: difficult to publicize beyond the library mailing list and website. With no local newspaper, we need to publicize news and events in multiple places and media. On the agenda for discussion at the Aug 17 meeting.

### **Long-Range Planning**

Wendy: Lee Ann sent out documentation. Cheryl R. catching up. Committee meeting July 25 via Zoom, 7:30 p.m.

### **Director's Report** Attached. In addition:

- New website: one thing--Internal links to emails. Google takes a while to recognize new websites. There will be other changes. Hoping to go live next week.
- AV system install-- we were told we have to purchase a new projector. The new one costs about \$3,900 with install, cables, connections, mount etc.

### **New Business:**

- Wendy: We are asking the Select Board to allow us to hire our own legal representation. We've discussed having only one of us talk at the Select Board meeting, our chair, but

we should be making all of our opinions known so that Cheryl W can represent all of our opinions. We should be prepared with our reasons for the request.

- For the August meeting, Cheryl W. will be remote. Carolyn will run the meeting. You can vote remotely if within certain reasons--one is being in a different geographic location.
- Currently all of our motions going back are in the individual minutes files. Do we need a separate file of motions made over the years, so we know what actions we have taken and can find them if needed? Cheryl W. will create a document for motions.

Meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m. by consensus.

Next meeting – August 17, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Rosenfeld  
Secretary, Board of Library Trustees