

**GOFFSTOWN LIBRARY TRUSTEES
AND
PINARDVILLE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES**

AUGUST 20, 1997

PRESENT: Carolyn Benthien, Barbara Griffin, Cathy Ball, Al Packard, Ricci Allard, Mark Choquette (arrived at 6:50 p.m.), Janet Bartels, Dick Gagnon, Fred Hicks, Monique Auger, Gerry Gagne and Al Gagne (arrived at 6:25 p.m.).

The meeting was called to order 6:00 p.m.

Carolyn presented reasons for the meeting and recapped the last meeting she had with Dick Gagnon. Dick gave an update on the use of the facility: church, Optimist Club, home schooling. Other groups call and schedule times, such as Share. The PCA have reviewed their lease with Mike as of September 1. Mike is happy with the arrangement. The guiding force for establishing this center was for the library and community groups. In order to pay the bills, other uses are permitted as long as they do not interfere with scheduling and are permitted by Mike. The PCA did not want this to be a full time job, so they do things to pay the bills and meet the expenses.

D. Gagnon: Question as to whether we want this to be turned over. Our concern is that we have worked on this for three years, and we don't want to turn it over to just be used as the library. We also borrowed some money to finance it. When we talked with Mike, this room was wide open. There was no electrical or plumbing. The deal was, if we fit it up, he would give it to us for one year free and then \$500 per month, then the lease would go up. We put in \$13,000 of material, of which \$10,000 was donated by companies. I approached 11 companies to do everything in here; ten donated.

F. Hicks: The community was really behind it.

D. Gagnon: We were working 20-30 hours per week for three months. We borrowed \$3,000 to finish it up so that we could open. We have that loan, which we did not start paying until one year later.

F. Hicks: It was lent to us with the option we would start paying it back within one year. He was very good. We made payments when we could.

D. Gagnon: If we were to turn this over, any liability would have to be taken from the five of us, who originally incorporated and signed our personal liability for this. If there was a willingness on the library's part to take this over, and still maintain the organizations ability to use it, not the private sector, we only did that to pay the rent, I would be open to some talking.

F. Hicks: Without using the schools, the only places to use for a hall are the PCA or Circle

National. I don't believe promoting alcohol with kids around.

R. Allard: Was there a Pinardville branch of the library before this?

B. Griffin: It was at the Bartlett School. There was a fair amount of problems with Bartlett.

C. Benthien: One of the things we are dealing with is to put a 3-5 year plan together. We have to start thinking about what do we do with Pinardville. We want to make it a permanent presence here. It is a dilemma for the board at this point, as to what we need to be doing.

F. Hicks: The rent was supposed to go up to \$750. It has gone up to \$600 for us as of September 1, 1997. It is because of the tax increase that he has had.

C. Benthien: One issue was a longer term.

J. Bartels: I have some stats from Rose that show increased attendance. People are expressing their pleasure of having this here. She also gets requests about more room and when will we have a computer here. It is so well supported, by both children and adults. The main thing we see here is an increase in adult attendance. Some tutoring has been done here also.

R. Allard: Coming from this part of Goffstown, this library is convenient to me. We realize this is an important part of the Pinardville community.

A. Packard: I would like to see this better established as a full branch library. It raises issues in terms of if we are going to put computer equipment here, there needs to be better security and control. Whether or not we assume the lease from you or you maintain the lease, the issue if we want to expand this and have this library provide the same basic services, then we need to take a look at the facility. That becomes a concern as to how many groups use this place. The more different groups use it, the more probability there will be some damage.

D. Gagnon: When this was first proposed to the Library Trustees, the security issue was you are responsible for your stuff. Again, if a computer had been added here, there are ways to protect it. You can have a lock on the plug. Somebody can knock the monitor down, but you can protect it. We get a certificate of insurance from everybody who does rent from us.

C. Benthien: Maybe you could tell us what the library has.

D. Gagnon: 22' of wall space and use of the place when the library is open and one closet.

C. Benthien: We are maxed out here in what we are able to do.

D. Gagnon: If you do need something additional, you talk to us. When this was originally set up, this whole back was a full kitchen. Twice a month we served the Lions Club a meal at their

meetings. This helped cover expenses. We did this for two years. They decided to move to Belmont Hall. We then decided to rip out the kitchen. One idea we were thinking about was making it a computer lab in the back. We could have classes here.

C. Benthien: I am concerned going forward that we make an effort to show good faith, we want to support a library here. We worked hard for the expansion and we are at our maximum capacity. We have a limited collection here because of the space that is available. How will we increase the collection that is here? You have to be able to secure it. Do you have any thoughts if we were to remain here, how we could increase our collection and how we could secure it?

D. Gagnon: You can go with more of these cabinets. That desk could be cut up.

G. Gagne: These closets could be moved to the other room.

D. Gagnon: We are really flexible. The whole area is 1,200 sf.

F. Hicks: We also discussed about putting in an accordion wall.

D. Gagnon: We can't please all the groups here.

C. Benthien: We are incredibly grateful for all that you have done. The challenge is not immediate, but long term. We do need to know we are some place that we do not have to worry. It needs to feel more permanent. How do we plan for this and honor the kind of relationship we have had?

D. Gagnon: I think the thing to do is to plan with us. We want to see this be here without us or with us, but we want it here. I think it is a matter of working together. If we meet again in a few months to say we started talking about 3-5 years and this is what we think.

A. Packard: What is your total monthly cost to keep this place open?

F. Hicks: It depends on what time of the year.

C. Benthien: The outstanding loan is \$2,500. Your rent was \$6,000. That comes up to \$7,200. Your insurance you had a problem with.

F. Hicks: Our insurance was \$435.

C. Benthien: Utilities and telephone..

D. Gagnon: May have gone up a little bit.

A. Packard: Roughly \$1,000 per month.

C. Ball: If the library were to make a decision that we needed larger space, what type of notice would you need in your 3-5 year plan, so you could support this without the rent of the library?

F. Hicks: One of our main goals was having a library in Pinardville.

G. Gagne: This place would shut down.

D. Gagnon: We are in a one year lease with Mike. We would go to Mike and say we have to leave.

F. Hicks: We would have enough time to finish out if you got your budget in April.

D. Gagnon: The Library Trustees do not need to stay here because you feel you owe us. If a better place comes along, I would help you pack up and move, if it was in Pinardville.

C. Ball: How do we get more exposure here? How can we get signage out front?

D. Gagnon: Other than we you can put on the road, as far as his sign, no.

C. Ball: Right now we are without a lease.

J. Bartels: The rent will stay at \$550?

D. Gagnon: Yes. The lease has never been an issue with us.

C. Benthien: It seems to me we should be current. I think we have some issues that cannot be settled in one night. Maybe a few months can go by and we can sit down again and keep the dialogue open.

D. Gagnon: Mike, in the 3-5 year plan, can play a part.

B. Griffin: Do you picture him being a long term player in this facility?

D. Gagnon: Yes.

J. Bartels: We have a meeting room at the village library. We have adopted some guidelines that will turn into policy. Would you envision this community involvement would come under the same policy and procedures as the Goffstown meeting room?

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D. Gagnon: We would have to see them. I don't think it would be much of a problem. It is just accessibility.

B. Griffin: We will all talk among ourselves and get together again.

C. Benthien: We will get the lease updated, and we will talk and keep you informed. On behalf of the Library Trustees, we thank you for what you have done for the community. I can assure you the intent is to have the branch in Pinardville.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann D'Avanza