



Minutes

The Blue Mountains Public Library Board Meeting

Meeting Date: September 15, 2016
Meeting Time: 2:00 p.m.
Location: Town Hall, Council Chambers
Prepared by Corrina Giles, Interim Secretary

A. Call to Order

Chair John McKean called the September 15, 2016 The Blue Mountains Public Library Board Meeting to order with all members of the Board present, including Councillor R.J. Gamble, Councillor Michael Martin, Lloyd Brown, LeJune Pier, Angela Weldon, Willi Wildman and Maurice Pepper. Board Member John Milne was absent due to a previous commitment.

Also present, Library CEO Terri Pope, Manager of Virtual and Technical Services Elisa Chandler, and Museum Curator Andrea Wilson.

- **Approval of Agenda**

Moved by: R.J. Gamble

Seconded by: LeJune Pier

THAT the Agenda of September 15, 2016 be approved as circulated, including any items added to the Agenda.

- **Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and general nature thereof**

None

- **Previous Minutes**

Moved by: R.J. Gamble

Seconded by: LeJune Pier

THAT The Blue Mountains Public Library Board minutes of April 4, 2016, June 16, 2016 and Special Meeting of The Blue Mountains Public Library Board minutes of July 8, 2016 and September 6, 2016 be approved as circulated, including any revisions to be made, Carried.

B. Deputations

Chair John McKean noted under the authority of the Municipal Act, 2001 and in accordance with Ontario's *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (MFIPPA), The Blue Mountains Public Library Board wishes to inform the public that all information including opinions, presentations, reports and documentation provided for or at a Public Meeting, Public Consultation, or other Public Process are considered part of the public record. This information may be posted on the Library website and/or made available to the public upon request.

B.1 Patrick Delaney, Voices of Community for Accountable Leadership

Re: Library Roof, Request that Library Board Members have Town email addresses, Demand for Library Services in Craigleith

Paul Wilson spoke on behalf of Mr. Delaney as Mr. Delaney was unable to attend the Library Board meeting. Mr. Wilson noted that he is the acting Chair of the VOCAL Group, further noting that this group is advocating on the side of the Library Board and noted the mission of the VOCAL group.

Mr. Wilson noted that the community has just marked the six month anniversary of the library restructuring plan. Mr. Wilson noted many members of the Library Board felt they did the right thing that day. Mr. Wilson noted that over one thousand citizens connected through social media and email lists, further noting that they will be watching the Library moving forward.

Mr. Wilson requested that each member of the Library Board be given a Town email address, further noting the Library Board is responsible for spending the taxpayers' money and are in charge of a public asset. Mr. Wilson noted that Town email addresses for the Library Board members would allow for open communication with the Board. Mr. Wilson noted that email addresses for the Board would filter emails away from personal email accounts.

Mr. Wilson then questioned if there is any evidence that library services were needed in Craigleith, and questioned if a survey was taken or a petition submitted. Mr. Wilson noted that he is interested to see the attendance records at the Depot.

Mr. Wilson noted that the Library CEO is responsible for maintenance of the library, but noted that a recent staff report indicated a visual inspection of the roof showed signs of build-up of organics and moss, roof drains were blocked and full of material and there was little evidence of preventative maintenance.

Mr. Wilson then questioned why a document submitted to the Library Board following the March 8 restructuring outlining grievances staff had with the CEO was not taken more seriously.

Vice-Chair LeJune Pier spoke noting that personal email addresses of the Library Board members have never been posted to the Library website, and that all Library Board communication has been through CEO Terri Pope.

Chair McKean then spoke noting that the Library restructuring has been discussed many times, further noting that there is information that cannot be shared with the public. Chair McKean noted that the library roof has been a maintenance issue for every Library Board. Chair McKean noted that the library is an asset of the Town, and that through asset management, that all will maintenance will now be documented. Chair McKean noted that the roof repair will be go out to tender, and that it will be a Council decision as to whether the roof repair will occur this year or not. Chair McKean noted that the roof is 20 years old.

Maurice Pepper then spoke noting that he does not believe the Library Board members can be considered employees of the Town. Chair McKean spoke noting that volunteers are referred to in the Indemnification By-law. Maurice questioned this, questioning if this is in compliance with the Public Libraries Act.

Lloyd Brown spoke noting the inclusion of the Library Board in the Indemnification By-law is to protect the Library Board members from lawsuits against them. Lloyd noted that he has no concern that the Library Board has a lack of independence from the Town.

Chair McKean thanked Mr. Wilson for his deputation.

B.2 Kristin Schnelten

Re: Public attendance at Library Board Meetings

Kristin Schnelten spoke noting she is a resident of The Blue Mountains and a fervent supporter of all libraries. Kristin noted that when travelling, that her family looks for libraries to access facilities, including WIFI, staff suggestions for dining and cultural sites, local events and entertainment.

Kristin noted that she has visited many libraries in North America of varying sizes, noting that each has their own strengths, and that a library is an incredible barometer of a town's personality.

Kristin noted that she was immediately impressed with the LE Shore Memorial Library building and its children's section with real books by cherished authors. Kristin noted that the library is the centre of the community, and that her family visits on a regular, sometimes daily, basis.

Kristin noted that she was disbelieved at the dismissal of the library staff and noted that the Library Board should have done the right thing. Kristin noted that the community has changed, further noting it is not right for the Library Board to hold secret meetings.

Kristin noted that the current Library Board should have had orientation meetings with the previous Board, and that an explanation of the Strategic Plan should have occurred. Kristin noted that the Library Board should be provided with an overview of the bank accounts, and Library policies. Kristin noted that Library Boards should communicate with their stakeholders. Kristin noted that the Library Board is not responsible for solving the Town or Depot's problems.

Kristin noted that the Library Board should demonstrate its autonomy from the Town, should reach out to patrons for consultation before making decisions on important issues, review its 2015 to 2018 Strategic Plan, treat the library stakeholders as allies not adversaries, and make the CEO accountable.

Kristin noted that the feeling at the library has changed.

Councillor Gamble spoke noting that the Library has great staff, and that it is a tremendous place. Councillor Gamble noted that staff and the public need to work together, and continue moving forward.

Chair McKean thanked Kristin for her deputation

B.3 Julia Hinds

Re: Library Roof

Julia Hinds spoke thanking the Library Board for their countless hours committed to being on the Library Board. Julia noted that she is shocked that Library Board member Lloyd Brown is the only member of the Board that has questioned how the library roof was allowed to fall into such a state of disrepair, which is now costing the taxpayers \$300,000.

Julia questioned what it would have cost to repair the roof had it been maintained over the years. Julia noted that the roof has been compromised and now the internal roof is affected and the remediation could cost as much as the outer repair.

Julia noted that she was invited to speak with Mayor McKean and Director of Community Services Shawn Everitt so that they may clarify the Town's position with respect to the library maintenance. Julia noted that Shawn confirmed that his department took over maintenance of the Library building in 2016, and prior to that time it was the responsibility of the Library Board and the CEO. Julia noted that Shawn confirmed that his department would occasionally be requested to go onto the library roof to remove snow, and was clear that this was not to be confused with maintenance, regular or otherwise.

Julia noted that the former library staff went on the roof regularly, which is why the former CEO had safety equipment installed. Julia noted that the former CEO left in November 2012 and Terri Pope took over as CEO in December 2012.

Julia questioned if the Library Board was made aware of the roof history and its problems and if CEO Terri Pope explained the maintenance schedule to the Board. Julia questioned if the maintenance schedule is available for the public to see.

Julia noted the CEO is responsible to keep the building in good repair, and noted the Library Board is responsible for the CEO's actions.

E. New and Unfinished Business

E.1 Round Table

E.1.1 Update to The Blue Mountains Public Library Board By-laws & Handbook

Moved by: Michael Martin Seconded by: Lloyd Brown

THAT The Blue Mountains Public Library Board directs that the following three members of the Library Board:

1. Angela Weldon
2. Maurice Pepper
3. LeJune Pier

and the Library CEO be appointed to a subcommittee to review and provide recommendations to update The Blue Mountains Public Library Board By-Laws & Handbook by December, 2016, Carried.

E.1.2 The Blue Mountains Public Library Board, Budget Committee

Moved by: Lloyd Brown Seconded by: Angela Weldon

THAT The Blue Mountains Public Library Board directs that the following three members of the Library Board:

1. Maurice Pepper
2. Lloyd Brown
3. Councillor R.J. Gamble

and the Library CEO be appointed to a subcommittee to provide recommendations to The Blue Mountains Public Library Board on the 2017 Library Budget, and Library Board Reserves, Carried.

E.2 Round Table

None

F. Notice of Meeting Dates / Adjournment

Note: the date, time and location of the October Library Board Meeting will be determined and advertised early in October.

G. Adjournment

Moved by: Michael Martin

Seconded by: Lloyd Brown

THAT this Library Board does now adjourn at 3:44 p.m. to meet again at the call of the Chair, Carried.

Board Chairperson