

# FINAL

## Prosser Public Library Library Board of Directors Meeting January 11, 2011

**Attendance:** Nancy Kamins (*Chairperson*), Roberta LaMonaca (*Library Director*), Howard Frydman, Beatrice Llewellyn, Beverlee Merritt, Joan Politis, and Marlene Chorches (*Friends of the Library Representative*)

Quorum present? Yes, 5 of 6

N. Kamins called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**MOTION to accept the minutes of the December 14, 2010 meeting;** seconded and approved.

*Chairperson's Report* – There was no business to report.

*Public Statements* – with David Baram, State Representative

**Honoring Faith McMahon** – Unsure if D. Baram would be able to attend, B. Llewellyn summarized his position beforehand. When D. Baram arrived, he reiterated the reasons for his attendance as follows.

The Democratic Town Committee has been looking for a way to honor Faith McMahon, and have decided that renaming the Wintonbury Library after her is the best option. To comply with the Town Council's recently adopted guidelines on naming town buildings, the committee can only submit one choice. The choice was between the library and the performing arts section of the high school. After polling various people – including Faith's husband, Bill Mahoney – the library emerged as the best option, in light of the considerable amount of time Faith spent on the east side, and the wider recognition the honor will entail.

D. Baram is asking for the library board's support before formally submitting this request to the Democratic Town Committee and Town Council. He understands the attachment to the Wintonbury name, so he is proposing the following name change: The Faith McMahon Wintonbury Library. The ultimate decision in this matter belongs to the Town Council.

Board members expressed disappointment that they were not involved earlier in the process. Other options were discussed, such as an ongoing music program in Faith's honor, but D. Baram noted that such programs are often dependent on the vagaries of funding. In response to N. Kamins's complaint that town leaders do little to interact with the library, D. Baram suggested that the Democratic Town Committee, along with other interested groups, could hold a meeting at the library, possibly in the spring. This would provide an opportunity for a library tour.

The board will table the issue of renaming the Wintonbury library until their next meeting. H. Frydman will speak with Shirley Thompson at the Board of Education about the history of this

issue and report back to the board. After the board discusses this item at the February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, they will contact D. Baram with their decision.

### *Director's Report*

**Architects' Oral Presentations** – On Friday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, Roberta LaMonaca and Beverlee Merritt spent the day at Town Hall listening to building renovation presentations by six architectural firms. Three of the firms were very well-liked, but after considering various factors, including a sealed bid proposal and experience working with libraries, the committee chose Tuthill and Wells, a company that has completed many library projects in the area. Their contract entails a site evaluation and a building construction proposal, but they are not necessarily the company who will do the work if the project goes forward.

**Children's Librarians Interviews** – There were 58 applicants, with varying levels of experience, who applied for the two positions. The first interviews will be conducted by a panel of children's librarians from the Canton, Simsbury, and Wallingford libraries. The second interviews will be performed in-house on Monday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. Roberta hopes to stagger the start dates for the new librarians – one in mid February, the other in early March. Both will need to be in place before Maureen Slane's retirement date of April 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Author Event: Chris Bohjalian** – To coincide with National Library Week and Snapshot Day, the library will host a talk by best-selling author Chris Bohjalian on Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> 2011. The Friends provided the financial support for this event.

**Patron Counter** – When the state collects data for its annual report on libraries, it requests the number of patron visits to the library. Previously, we had been estimating this number at around 50,000 people per year. To get a more accurate count, we recently installed a patron counter on the ground floor. In December, we recorded 8,000 visits to the library, nearly double our estimated attendance. A patron counter has been ordered for the front door.

**2011-2012 Budget** – R. LaMonaca has begun working on the budget for next year. The town is asking for a more detailed budget this year. Bill Hogan trained Roberta and Chris Siloac on the proper procedures for entering this information in Munis. Although this approach takes more time, Roberta thinks it will provide a more accurate reflection of our expenditures and needs. The budget has to be submitted to the Town Manager by January 20<sup>th</sup>. The Board will have a chance to review it before it reaches Town Council.

### *Old Business*

**E-Books** – B. Llewellyn expressed an interest in learning more about e-books. Laura Vasselle will conduct an information session at an upcoming Friends meeting. Interested board members will attend.

**Meeting at Wintonbury** – H. Frydman suggested that the board attempt to hold at least one of its monthly meetings at the Wintonbury Library. R. LaMonaca will look into the feasibility of meeting there.

*Report from the Friends of the Library*

**Author Talk: Rick Green** – Hartford Courant columnist, Rick Green, will speak at Seabury.

**Annual Trip** – The Friends have decided to visit the Springfield Museums in April. The trip will include a lunch.

**Spring Book Sale** – The spring book sale will be held May 12-14.

**MOTION to adjourn meeting at 5:37 PM;** seconded and passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Siloac  
*Senior Staff Assistant*