

HAZARD LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Minutes – April 19, 2010

The meeting was called to order at the Friends Meeting House at 7:10 pm by President Kellie Stiadle. Also present were Board members Phil Anguish, Jay Ardai, Rachel Karn, Ken Knight, Kris Minster, and Dodie Rowlands, Library Director Sally Otis, Assistant Linda Shaw Bush, and an estimated 20 members of the community.

Kellie Stiadle welcomed everyone, and introduced members of the board. She announced that she will be going off the board, having completed her term. Ken Knight will serve as President, Jay Ardai as Treasurer, and Dodie Rowlands as Secretary. Monica Hastings resigned this year, having been on the board for four years and served several years as Treasurer. Lori Radcliff-Woods also resigned, having served seven months. Kellie expressed thanks for Monica's and Lori's service to the library. Anyone interested in serving on the board may contact President Ken Knight. She presented Photo Boards to Sally and Linda with appreciation from the board.

Dodie Rowlands read the minutes of the last Annual Meeting April 20, 2009.

Kellie introduced the Library staff – Library Director Sally Otis, and Assistant to the Library Director Linda Shaw Bush.

Sally Otis presented the Year 2009 at a glance – brochure attached. She thanked the board members and all volunteers for their service to the library. She especially thanked her assistant Linda Shaw Bush for all of her hard work and support. She also thanked Suzanne O'Hara, Webmaster; Margaret Redmond, Historian; Joanne Kopp, Coordinator of Volunteers; and Scott Gross and John Birk for coordinating the Book Sale.

This year, thanks to Jay Ardai's help, the library is able to provide WiFi so that anyone can bring a laptop and connect with high speed internet in and/or around the library.

We had a serious flood in the basement in October with water up to 2 feet or more, and we especially appreciate everyone (Phil Anguish, Jay Ardai, Ken Knight, Fire Company, etc.) who helped handle not only the emergency, but also the clean up, repair and preventive work afterward.

A special event this year was the community read, Greg Mortensen's "Three Cups of Tea," and a presentation from two Pakistani students who shared about their culture. Everyone is invited to bring children to Story Hour. Sally also thanked everyone for donating books for the Book Sale in August; just drop off books on the library porch anytime.

Plans for 2010 include drawing up a five-year plan (required by New York State) and focusing on ways to promote the library and provide for the needs of the community. Sally and Kris Minster went to a workshop on "Marketing Your Library," and will be presenting many ideas to the Board. Community input is vital; Kris distributed a survey for anyone interested to complete. More copies will be available at the library, as well as a Suggestion Box for any ideas or comments from the community.

Kellie reported that the ramp railing was replaced (paid for by insurance) after it was damaged in an auto accident. We are grateful there was no personal injury. After the flood in October, preventative measures were taken, such as an additional sump pump and moisture alarm. A much-appreciated grant from the Metcalf foundation will provide funds to restore the brickwork on the exterior of the building.

Ken Knight reviewed the 2009 Financial Report, and confirmed that the library's assets are in secure investments. Assemblyman Finch has confirmed that the grant originally approved for new construction may be used for maintenance and restoration of the current Library building since the board has postponed plans for expansion until the economic climate improves.

Kellie then introduced Patricia White, who gave a most informative and interesting presentation on "Emily Howland, Striving to Serve." Born just up the road in Sherwood in 1837, Miss Emily was a strong and active advocate for people's rights, including voting and education for women, and abolition of slavery. She founded the Sherwood Select School, which after several transformations over the years, became the Emily Howland Elementary School. She supported many women in furthering their education by providing financial assistance as well as encouragement, and served in many areas of social reform throughout her 101 years of life.

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm. (Ken Knight/Lisa Semenza). All in favor.

Kellie thanked everyone for coming. Refreshments were served and everyone enjoyed a chance to visit.

The next regular meeting of the Hazard Library Board of Trustees is scheduled for Monday May 17th at 7:00 pm at the library.

Respectfully submitted,

Dodie Rowlands, Secretary