

Prince Memorial Library Board Minutes
May 20, 2008

Present: Lynne Champoux, Lisa Nolan, Adam Moody, Kathie Harper, Thomas Bennett

New summer hours will begin June 1st. The library will be open on Saturdays from 9:00-12:00 for the months of June, July and August. In order to make this possible the library will be open on Saturdays from 9:00-4:00 the rest of the year. Thomas has publicized this in many places.

The library has applied for a grant with the Maine Community Heritage Program, the Maine Memory Network. This has been in existence for a few years and it provides an internet portal where people can go to learn about Maine history. It is a collaborative program with both historical societies, both towns, and the MSAD 51 school district participating. The grant will provide \$10,000 over the space of a year and will provide a training pilot program. The library will be the fiscal agent. They should hear in June whether they were awarded the grant.

Thomas said that the library has also applied for "New Century" money, \$400,000 total available to Maine State Library for dispensing throughout the state. Prince Memorial has applied for a \$14,000 grant to go towards facility improvements or projects, in particular the brick pointing on the building. The project of repointing the bricks, repairs, and waterproofing is estimated to cost \$28,000. The income from the passport fees should cover the balance. The library currently has \$35,000 in a library building fund which was started as an "automation fund."

The Summer Reading program will be "kicked off" on June 19th. This year's theme is "Catch the Reading Bug." Thirty-three 5th graders showed an interest in volunteering. There will be a training workshop next week.

We decided to table officer appointments for next year until the next meeting in September. Paul Dymont's position in Cumberland still needs to be filled and we still need one more person from North Yarmouth. There should be nine appointed board members.

Lisa shared her idea that she had previously sent out in an e-mail about how the advisory board could take a proactive role. She is aware of our limited role but felt that we could offer assistance, like the summer hours, if a need arises. She asked Thomas if there was some initiative that he would like our help with in the coming year. He said that there is the 2nd Edition of the Maine Public Library Standards and that would be an interesting exercise for the board since we helped with the last one. He also suggested that we could man informational tables about the library at different polling places like the primary coming up on June 10th. We could advertise the new hours and promote the library. There is always help needed during the time of the Friend's book sale. Maybe even sponsoring an Open House over the summer.

Kathie asked about whether the book budget was increased for this fiscal year? Since it hadn't maybe that is a possible project, advocating for more funds for acquisitions. Thomas said that all of the holdings for libraries in Maine are available on the Web. Kathie said that she would investigate and share the information at our next meeting.

We also might want to brainstorm ideas over the summer and even set up an e-mail chain so that we can have some concrete ideas before our next meeting.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 17th.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathie Harper, Secretary