**Town of South Thomaston, ME**

**June 3, 2024 at 4:00 pm at the South Thomaston, ME Town Office**

**South Thomaston Library and Community Center Auxiliary Board of Directors meeting minutes**

**Present:** John Spear, President, Erv Curtis (Zoomed in at 4:42pm), Sheryl Dacso (arrived at 4:04 pm), Rhonda Nordstrom, Barbara Reitz, Treasurer, and Sandy Weisman, Secretary.

**Absent:** no one

**Public:** Elaine Smith, Maureen Long, Moira Paddock, and Catherine Lerme

**Zoom:** Sally Merchant and Betsy Lunt

J Spear called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm

**Minutes:**

B Reitz moved to accept the minutes of 5/2/24 and to defer the minutes of April 8, 2024 till the next meeting. S Weisman seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0 (1 abstained due to being absent at the last meeting and 2 others were not present at the meeting yet.)

**Treasurer’s report:**

B Reitz reported the BOD’s bank account has a balance of $1814.00. The town of South Thomaston has a balance of $1000.00 for the Auxiliary. No money was spent or received in the past month.

**Vacancy of one Director:**

S Weisman moved to refer the vacancy seat on the committee to the Nominating Committee. R Nordstrom seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

**Debrief discussion on meeting with Leila Murphy:**

S Weisman reported the highlights of the Leila Murphy’s meeting with the committees and there was a discussion of the pros and cons and where does the committee go from this point with what is happening with the citizen’s petition.

B Reitz moved to hire L Murphy tentatively based on a positive outcome from Town Meeting for South Thomaston to be held on June 18, 2024. Sheryl Dacso seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**Graphic Design Work:**

S Weisman provided 4 logo designs from Sally Ann Field, a Graphic Designer who lives in South Thomaston. S Weisman reported that the colors of the logo would be Maine colors and her work was provided pro bono. The committee looked at the 4 designs and provided feedback.

**Update from the Facility Committee:**

S Weisman reported that the next meeting would not be held on June 6, 2024 due to not having a quorum. The next meeting will be held on Monday, June 17, 2024 at 4:00 pm at the South Thomaston Town Offices. Committee members are holding Ambassador Groups but not having a lot of luck with people coming. C Lerme reported that she is calling towns people and going over to their homes and talking one on one. C Lerme said that this has been very positive. C Lerme has developed her slides to show the placement of the new building behind GBC.

M Paddock mentioned that the committee wanted to hand out pictures of proposed 3D roof and building designs with information on the back at the town meeting but heard that the Selectboard is not allowing any handouts. J Spear reported that the Selectboard had decided and voted on at the last meeting that no handouts would be allowed at the town meeting.

**Grants:**

B Reitz and S Weisman reported that the grant from Congresswomen Pingree's office is moving forward and the committee will know the results on June 11, 2024. S Weisman reported that the grant that was sent into Senator Angus King’s has been approved to the next level and the results will be reported in the next month or so.

J Spear asked if someone was prepared to talk at the town meeting and report on what is going on with grants. Both B Reitz and S Weisman said yes they were prepared to report the success of the grants thus far. S Weisman also mentioned the status of 3 other grants that are being applied to.

J Spear said thank you to the grant committee and great job.

**Fund Raising Strategies:**

S Weisman reported that Ambassador Groups will need to address the false rumors that are being said. .Programs will not change but maybe more added,

No property tax dollars will be used to build the new building, the new building will be built behind the GBC so programs will continue during construction, the grant money is for a  new building not for renovations.

**Citizen’s Petition concerning the GBC:**

J Spear reported that the South Thomaston Town Meeting will start on Tuesday, June 11, 2024 (Election Day) where the town will vote on the Moderator and a Selectboard member. The town meeting will pause then till Tuesday, June 18, 2024 and continue at Ash Point School in Owls Head.

J Spear read the petition which will be Article 27:

***“To see if the Town will direct the Town Officials to change course from the current goal of demolition and replacement of the Gilford Butler Building and to preserve the existing Gilford Butler Building for future Town use.”***

J Spear read the companion Article that the Selectboard wrote which will be Article 26:

**“ *To see if the Town will vote to reaffirm its previous June 15, 2021 vote, pursuant to the recommendation of the Gilford Butler Futures Committee, to fund raise and plan for the construction of a modern energy efficient library and community center, with a large meeting room, at the site of the former Gilford Butler School.”***

A lengthy discussion ensued about the petition and how to communicate to the town. S Dacso reported existing life safety issues, the cost of maintaining the building and the need to serve a bigger picture. The current building is not adequate.

Members of the public were asked their thoughts.

Conclusion of the discussion- letters need to be written to the Courier Gazette, Free Press and Pen Bay Pilot to address the false information. People need to stand up at Town Meeting and talk but keep it brief. Talk to your neighbors. Does the town really want to say “no” to the grant money? The grant money cannot be used for renovations.

**Other Business:**

None

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be held on Monday, July 1, 2024 at 3:30 pm at the town office.

J Spear without objections adjourned the meeting at 5:23 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Moira Paddock

ST Library/Community Center Facility Committee for S Weisman, Secretary, Auxiliary Board of Directors.