

Williamston Community Library Foundation

Board of Trustees: Ed Noonan • Al Stout • John Brazier • Ernie St Pierre
JoAnn Hegedus • Patricia Hogg • Jeff Bartrem
Williamston Library
175 East Grand River Avenue
Williamston MI 48895
(517) 655-1191

Annual Report

January 31, 2002

The Foundation was incorporated on November 27, 2000.

On January 25, 2001, the Board of Trustees elected the following Foundation officers:

- a. President: Edward T. Noonan
- b. Vice President: Susan Graff
- c. Secretary: Patricia A. Hogg
- d. Treasurer: JoAnn Hegedus

At the November 28, 2001 Board Meeting, Williamstown Township Trustee Ray Challis resigned on account of ill health. Williamstown Township resident Jeff Bartrem was appointed in his stead. Mr. Challis passed away on January 13, 2002. In January, 2002, pursuant to Section 2 of the Bylaws, Trustees Bartrem, St. Pierre and Stout were reappointed by their respective communities.

Throughout 2001, much of the Foundation's attention was directed toward acquisition of a particular empty lot. Though the owner of that property expressed interest in donating the property to the Foundation, he never did, and pleas to resolve the matter promptly went unanswered, so the Foundation gave up on that parcel. The Foundation investigated several other parcels and the Board spent many hours discussing property options.

Treasury: In the period prior to January 31, 2002, the Foundation's gross income was \$1,000 in charitable contributions from private sources and no contributions from public sources. At the direction of the Board of Trustees, the Foundation opened a bank account at Republic Bank in Williamston. The Foundation has a current balance of \$1,000 in that account.

On August 28, 2001, the Foundation's 2001 Nonprofit Corporation Information Update was submitted to the Michigan Department of Consumer & Industry Services, Bureau of Commercial Services, Corporation Division. When asked to describe the purpose and activities of the corporation during the year covered by that report, the Foundation reported: "No activity; to serve the informational, educational & literary needs of the Williamston community."

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On January 9, 2002, the United States Department of the Treasury issued Employer Identification Number 26-0004493 to the Foundation. The Foundation is in the process of applying for charitable tax status pursuant to §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

On December 30, 2001, pursuant to the Board's directive, the President sent a letter to the *Lansing State Journal* and the *Williamston Enterprise* laying out some of the issues facing the Foundation and some of the Foundation's suggestions. Both newspapers followed with published reports about the Foundation's plight. As hoped, the published reports heightened interest in building a new library and prompted some suggestions for building sites and property to be acquired.

On January 2, 2002, Trustees Bartrem, Noonan and Hegedus met with the Township of Williamstown's Board. At that meeting, the items discussed in the letters to the media were discussed. Members of the Williamstown Township Board expressed concern about the City's suggestion that the library might be made part of a new City Hall complex. Opposition was expressed due to the City's financial status and the history of dealings with the City, especially over the Fire hall.

On January 7, 2002, Trustees Noonan, Brazier and Hegedus met with Capital Area District Library Director Sue Hill and Assistant Director, Nancy Bujold, at the CADL administrative offices in Lansing. After the Foundation representatives explained the background and nature of the Foundation and the issues facing the Foundation, Director Hill expressed a willingness to furnish the names of library consultants who could conduct a needs assessment to establish the size and nature of a new library in Williamston. She also expressed CADL's tentative willingness to participate in the funding of that study. She indicated that CADL was considering the establishment of minimum standards for the buildings that communities would be allowed to use as CADL libraries, that Williamston would not likely meet any such standards with its current building. A Princeton consultant that CADL retained to conduct Countywide meetings with library patrons last Fall, recommended the elimination of some CADL branches. It is not known whether Williamston is one of those branches, but Director Hill noted that Williamston is the District's most "over utilized and undersized" facility.

In 2002, the challenge of assessing the needs of Williamston with respect to a new library building, finding a site, securing funding, and building a new library promise to be even more pressing, but there promises to be more community resolve than ever.



Ed Noonan, Chair and President