

A QUICK REPORT

TO: W. Calvin Horton, Town Manager
FROM: Kathleen Thompson, Library Director
SUBJECT: Library Board Meeting: April 19, 2004
DATE: April 20, 2004

Members present: Bob Schreiner (Chair), Bill Holton, Evelyn Daniel, Paul Jones, Jessica Kem, Margaret Siefert, Virginia Young, Leslie Johns. Also present: high school representative Amanda Harper, Reference Librarian Susan McClure, Library Director Kathleen Thompson.

* The Board unanimously voted to recommend that the Council re-appoint Bill Holton to a second four-year term that would begin July 1, 2004.

In January, library staff recommended that filters be placed on all library Internet computers to comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act and to block limit information that is not protected under the First Amendment. In February, March and April, Board members discussed concern that filters could block free access to information and limit a minor's use of library materials. In response, staff proposed using computer management software to permit adults to disable the filter without staff intervention. Minors would be encouraged to request unblocking of sites that may be incorrectly targeted by imprecise filters.

The Board voted to support the staff's recommendation that the Town put filters on all library computers to comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act by July 1, 2004 (5 yes: Schreiner; Holton; Daniel; Kem; Siefert; Young; 2 no: Jones; Johns). The Board also requested that staff study and report on the effectiveness of filtering at the end of one year.

Daniel, Kem and Schreiner will work with the Director to revise the existing Internet Safety Policy. The proposed revised policy will be posted for citizen review and comment at a public meeting (date yet to be determined). Citizen comments and Board and staff recommendations will then be forwarded to the Town Council for consideration.

Next regular meeting: Monday, May 17, at 5:30 p.m.