

The Southbury Training School Board of Trustees met in the Moser Library at Southbury Training School, Southbury, Connecticut, on Monday, September 28, 2009.

Present: Ann Dougherty, Chair
Eileen Lemay, Vice-Chair
Philip K. Bondy, M.D., Secretary
Mark A. R. Cooper
Louis Richards
Marc J. Taylor, M.D.
Ted Walen

Eugene Harvey, Director, STS

Guests: Marianne Zilaro, Unit IV Manager; Coordinator of Memorial Garden at STS
Sally Bondy
Fritz Gorst, Regional Director, West Region, DDS

Ms. Dougherty called the meeting of the Southbury Training School Board of Trustees to order at 1:04 p.m.

MINUTES

The June 22, 2009 minutes were approved by all trustees via e-mail on June 26, 2009.

GUEST SPEAKER

Ms. Dougherty introduced Marianne Zilaro, Unit IV manager and Coordinator of the Memorial Garden at Southbury Training School. She discussed plans for a STS Memorial Garden. The proposal is to build a heart-shaped garden, 20 ft. by 20 ft., between and the driveway to Cottage 11 and the parking lot across from the Gate House Café. The committee preparing to establish the garden started raising funds in July. Many people and groups have made donations. In addition, the group will sell memorial bricks, containing 3 lines of up to 12 characters each, for \$50 each. The bricks will be engraved with a suitable memorial to deceased STS residents. The work of establishing the garden will be done by STS Staff. It is planned to begin work on the garden early in the Spring of 2010.

Marc Taylor asked whether the garden could also contain memorial bricks to STS Staff. Ms. Zilaro said this might be appropriate.

COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Ted Walen reported that not much had occurred at this month's meeting of the Council. Most of the meeting had been devoted to discussions of the Connecticut Budget, which has been enacted by the Legislature. To implement this Budget, it will be necessary to

pass an Implementer Bill, providing the funds to activate the Budget. The amounts of money which will be available to implement the activities authorized in the Budget are therefore not yet clear. Fritz Gorst commented that DDS had asked for what it needs in the Budget, but Governor Rell says that revenues have been less than anticipated when the Budget was written, so it is likely that she will make further reductions. The exact level of financing for DDS in the forthcoming fiscal year remains uncertain.

(The minutes for this meeting can be obtained by going to the DDS web site, clicking on the Boards & Councils link, and then on the Council for Development Services.)

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Eugene Harvey reported that the Department of Justice has asked Judge Burns to end the Consent Decree since its purposes had been achieved. DDS has made verbal commitments to maintain the services at their present high level, but dismissal would not specify this. Eugene reported, however, that he expects to continue recording compliance with the Consent Decree even though no reports are required. Judge Burns has not yet signed the dismissal order.

The Messier Case: Attorney Shaw has proposed that Judge Burns appoint a special Master to supervise movement of STS residents into the Community. He also requests that an outside case manager be appointed for every resident to supervise such movements, and that each resident have an advocate specifically to implement movement into the community. STS Staff would be required to take special training in the advantages of community living. He wants to require that the Interdisciplinary Team discuss in every instance, whether the resident could live in the community. If it decided that he could, the IDT would then present their findings to the guardian, who can accept or reject the offer. DDS and the State of Connecticut have contested this request. The Board discussed the implications of this request and its effects if the Judge grants it.

OLD BUSINESS

Marc Taylor reported that Special Act No. 09-8 has been signed into law by Governor Rell. The act instructs the Farmland Preservation Advisory Board to review all state-owned agricultural land (except that owned by the Department of Environmental Protection) to evaluate methods for permanently preserving each parcel of land, and to submit a report to the Commissioner of Agriculture not later than January 15, 2010. Since the farm at STS is by far the largest such parcel of land, it will probably be among the first to be evaluated. Marc considers this a very important step toward preserving the farm at STS from development in any non-agricultural way.

Nominations for officers of the Board: Ann Dougherty said she had decided she was unwilling to continue as Chair of the Board. She asked the Board to consider whom else they could nominate for that position at the October meeting of the Board.

NEW BUSINESS There was no new business.

The next meeting of the STS Board of Trustees will be **Monday, October 26, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. in Moser Library.**

There being no further business, Marc Taylor moved that the meeting adjourn at 2:09 p.m. Mark Cooper seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip K. Bondy, M.D.
Secretary

Approved by the STS Board of Trustees