



Trustees of The Mary E. Bartlett Memorial Library

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Liz McConnell, Chair Melody Santos, Treasurer Tom Walker, Secretary Melissa Bertoulin Megan Schneider

Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 08, 2023

Trustees attending: Liz McConnell, Tom Walker, Megan Schneider, Melody Santos (6:08PM)

From the Library: Janice Wiers - Library Director

Others: Alternate trustees: Susan Lunn, Jim Clark

From the public: Tracy Descoteux, Lois DeYoung, Laura Hajjar, Jim Hajjar, Russ Kelly

Liz McConnell called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

On a motion from Tom, with a second by Susan, the 3/13/2023 meeting minutes were unanimously accepted. Liz - aye, Megan - aye, Tom - aye, Susan - aye, Jim - aye.

On a motion from Liz, with a second by Jim, the 3/21/2023 meeting minutes were unanimously accepted. Liz - aye, Tom - aye, Jim - aye.

On a motion from Tom, with a second by Susan, the 4/17/2023 meeting minutes, amended for a typographical error, were unanimously accepted. Liz - aye, Megan - aye, Tom - aye, Susan - aye, Jim - aye.

DIRECTORS REPORT:

There were 13 new patrons this month, 11 adults and 2 children. There were 929 patron visits to the library this month with 3 requests for curbside pick up. There were 650 visits to the website. The open rate for library email communication was 54%, and social media followers increased. The new Udemy Business Online Academy enrolled 20 users, who took 33 courses and completed 585 lectures. The library added 154 new books and 65 other media.

The basement cleanup has been rescheduled for 5/19/23 at 8:00 AM. The basement bathroom overflowed during a program. Janice, with initial approval from Liz, had a plumber replace the pump to resolve the issue. They felt this was a safety issue that needed to be addressed immediately and therefore OK'd the expenditure without a full trustee meeting. Trustees agreed with the need for this hasty process.

On a motion from Melody, with a second by Tom the trustees agreed to retroactively approve the

expense of the sewage pump. The motion was unanimously accepted. Liz - aye, Megan - aye, Tom - aye, Melody - aye, Susan - aye.

The town has a new process for approving alternate trustees. In the past trustees agreed on a final candidate that was then presented to the Select Board for approval or denial. The new process will be a 30 day public posting for the position with an application. A non-public Joint Trustee/Select Board meeting will be held where Trustees will vote on the final applicant and the Select Board will approve or not.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/ YOUTH SERVICES LIBRARIAN REPORT:

Kiki submitted her report in writing prior to the meeting, but was unable to attend, Janice spoke on her behalf. The Afterschool Story Time had lower than normal attendance due to it being held on a beautiful day right before April Vacation. The Lego club had 12 attendees, many staying after the program because they were having so much fun. The new baby playtime has 4 families regularly participating. Kiki and library assistant Katie Coppola visited a 2nd grade classroom at Swasey Elementary. They were an audience for the Women's History presentations and voting. The Great Stone Face Book Award was voted on, Kiki tabulated the totals and submitted them to the state library, who will announce the winners in May. The Summer Reading Program will open on June 26, 2023. The theme will be All Together Now. Lots of prep work has been done to ensure a successful program.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Laura Hajjar questioned what could have been done differently to get a positive outcome to the amphitheater vote at town meeting. She mentioned that she didn't know what the total cost of the project would be. Liz explained that we were asking for \$200,000 to get the project started, with the rest coming from a combination of ARPA funds, grants, fundraising, etc. The Ironwood Design Group who drew up the plans advised not to give exact numbers as that would tip our hand to bidding contractors about our budget.

Jim Hajjar asked about the cancellation of the Living Room Conversations Program. Janice explained that cuts had to be made due to not receiving anticipated funding at the town meeting. The program took a lot of staff time and resources and was chosen as one of the items to cut. Janice explained that a Braver Angels program will meet similar needs and is run by volunteer moderators. Braver Angels is an organization that hosts workshops to foster understanding and communication between people with opposing political views.

OLD BUSINESS:

Covid Response: The U.S. government has declared an end to the emergency phase of the COVID pandemic. Going forward this item will be removed from the regular meeting agenda list.

George Beyea Commemoration: A date will be set for the ceremony unveiling the memorial plaque.

Amphitheater: GoFundMe donations are at \$2730 so far. A grant application has been sent out and a letter of receipt has been received from them.

Annual reports: Library copies of town meeting reports and similar documents have been transferred to the Brentwood Historical Society.

Melissa and Josh Bertoulin are exploring options for equipment to broadcast town and library events.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jim Clark has yet to step down as an alternate trustee. The Select Board has changed the process for approving new trustees, Jim has generously agreed to stay on until a new alternate is approved.

Melody motioned, with a second by Megan, to advance and get approval for amphitheater engineering so we can move on to the bidding phase. The motion was unanimously accepted. Liz - aye, Melody - aye, Tom - aye, Megan - aye, Jim - aye.

Janice proposed offering library cards to town employees. This would benefit the employees directly, as well as give them access to Udemy Business for continuing education. She further proposed offering cards to SAU 16 teachers as an outreach and goodwill gesture. Teachers are a source of help with programs. For example the high school teachers that recently helped with the library's Poetry Slam program. Trustees discussed and will take this up at a future meeting.

The Katherine Morel Trust is a small trust set up in the 1920's by a resident to benefit the library. The disbursements currently go to the general fund. The Trustee of the Trust Funds is asking what we would use them for if they came to the library directly. Janice would like to use the funds to update travel guides as their information can become stale after several years, and this use would honor the intent of the original donation.

At 7:51 PM, Melody made a motion, seconded by Megan, to go into a nonpublic session under NH RSA 91-A:3 II.(c) "Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely adversely affect the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting." A roll call vote was taken: Liz - aye; Melody - aye; Megan - aye; Tom - aye; Susan - aye. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The public meeting resumed at 8:26 PM.

Melody made a motion, seconded by Megan, to seal the nonpublic session minutes because of the discussion of matters related to a non board members reputation. A roll call vote was taken: Liz - aye; Melody - aye; Megan - aye; Tom - aye; Susan - aye. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Liz adjourned the meeting at 8:27 PM.

Next meeting: Monday, June 12, 2023 at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Tom Walker - Board Secretary