

Jonathan Bourne Public Library, Board of Trustees meeting November 16, 2023

Kristina Prodouz, chair, called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm.

Attendance: Kristina Prodouz, chair, Kathleen Fox-Alfano, vice chair, Susan Barlow, Irja Finn, library director, Perry Davis, Todd Benedict, Paul Gately, Cape Cod Times, Colleen Cunningham, library assistant director, Marilyn Tarallo, Friends of the JBPL, Dave Pelonzi, chair of the Bourne Commission on Disabilities, Susan Schmidt, secretary.

Voting items: Minutes from the October 26 meeting were moved for approval by Perry Davis, seconded by Todd Benedict. The minutes were accepted by unanimous vote.

Dave Pelonzi, chair of the Bourne Commission on Disabilities was our invited guest. He shared a little about his training to determine if buildings are accessible and some of the work of the commission. They are willing to work with the BoT to put together a crew to do what we can to improve accessibility. He also suggested CORD (Cape Organization for the Rights of the Disabled) who could also help us. There is a grant available to help with this process, and the town has currently started the process with a self assessment and has a transition plan in place. The remaining step for eligibility is to have an ADA grievance plan in place in order to be eligible to apply for the ADA municipal grant. The Commission's next meeting is on December 21 and they will add the library to their agenda. P. Davis will be a liaison to the Commission and help with a policy for the library. T. Benedict asked how we can find grant opportunities, especially if the town does not have a grant writer.

Building Masonry Schedule: There was a Zoom call with Gale and the start date was set as November 15. Some work has started with scaffolding set up. The main masonry repairs will begin shortly, for window repairs and roof repairs. The plan is to end on December 22. They have a plan to end early on December 1, for the Christmas in Old Bourne Village festivities. The noise levels may be a little loud at times and there could be patron complaints. The book drops are set up. The day that they work on the abatement, the front entrance will need to be closed, but just for one day. There will be publicity to inform patrons to the largest extent possible.

Director's Report: I. Finn announced there is an anticipated shortfall for the budget next year. She invited staff members Judy Santangelo and Beth Poirier to share about their continuing education and staff development work. Judy told the Board about her virtual workshop series for early literacy. It was well done and reinforced what she has been doing in the story times. Read, Write, Sing, Play and Talk were the components. She

had a challenge to create a language rich environment for one of the projects. Some implementations can be challenging due to our space. She also did a lot of the work for the course on her own time. Parents of her story time have provided positive feedback for what she is doing.

Beth's workshop was on Community Archives. The program explored a more recent time, mid 1970's-1980's, rather than something more like the historical society approaches. The idea is to document something that brings the community together. Quilting is an approach and she shared information about our historical quilt. She chose a focus on the Bourne Braves to plan a project. She is researching and planning a project based on the team and hopefully will have some upcoming programming on it.

I. Finn was able to make some exciting connections with Buzzards Bay networking with the Chamber of Commerce. The Lions Club would like to help us get an enlarger for the library of things. Rockland Trust is interested in presenting a program on financial literacy. Mass Maritime Academy has some cadets who may be able to do community service for the library.

Each department in the library shared their reports on programs, circulation and purchases. C. Cunningham shared about the implementation of the Assabet program for scheduling the rooms and space which went live today. The update is very useful and she is working on any issues with implementation with patrons.

The Board and I. Finn discussed her goals and aligning them with the implementation of the Strategic Plan. The TA will be discussing goals with her next week.

As for the Public Services Librarian position, they have held interviews and an offer will be extended to a candidate soon.

The Friends of JBPL are holding their silent auction with many beautiful items on display in the library and there will be a book sale of Beautiful Books for the Christmas in Old Bourne Village weekend.

Next meeting: December 28, beginning at 1:00 pm with a celebration with staff, trustees and Friends.

Future agenda items: minutes, update on disabilities commission, masonry work, Public Services Library position.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Schmidt, Secretary