

June 6, 2024 minutes-JBPL Board of Trustees

Attendance: Todd Benedict, vice chair, Perry Davis, Kristina Prodouz, Kathleen Fox Alfano, chair, Amy Sharpe, Colleen Cunningham, Anne Gregory, Irja Finn, library director, Susan Schmidt, secretary.

The meeting was called to order by K. Fox Alfano, chair, at 3:15 pm.

Voting items:

A motion to accept the minutes from June 6, 2024 was made by P. Davis, seconded by T. Benedict. The vote passed unanimously.

There was also a vote to accept the donation of the Peace Pole from the Sandwich-Bourne Rotary group which was moved by P. Davis and seconded by K. Prodouz. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion:

Feasibility Study report: The working group met with town officials to interview the proposed candidates and review their choices. Johnson Roberts Architects were the select group. Phil O'Brien is the principal architect. They have done many libraries, notably Mashpee and even have done historical renovations. One person from the firm specializes in community engagement. The Board of Trustees has been advised of the Town Administrator's choice.

Library Building 100th Anniversary celebration:

We have been advised by the TA to work with the southside fire department group which will also celebrate their 100th anniversary in 2025. While the liaisons have not met again, S. Schmidt has continued research and discovered another use of the building between the closing of the school and the installation of the library. The Cape Cod Collaborative occupied the building for about two years. The Archives in the Historical Society building have been an invaluable resource in research. She contacted the executive director of the Collaborative to see if they would like to participate in what will be 100 Years of Stories in the Building. The liaisons will meet again before the August 28 meeting to firm up plans and ideas.

P. Davis left at 4:00 pm due to another commitment.

Keene House: K. Fox Alfano shared concerns about the moving of the building, as it is the oldest building in town. There has been discussion about moving it to the Aptucxet area, but that is difficult due to the size. The trustees will contemplate it, but there are concerns that it will complicate plans to renovate or move the library as we move forward with the feasibility study. More discussion in the future will be planned.

Cupola: it will be added to the Gale list, but there is a queue of other projects that the town needs to have completed before, so it is fourth in line in priority.

Liaison to the Friends of the Library: K. Prodouz agreed to be the representative going forward.

Strategic Plan FY24: discussion was tabled due to other issues that arose in the week about the need to move a few projects from FY24 to FY25. This will be moved to the August agenda.

Staffing: there are some potential staffing issues for the Children's Department due to some FMLA leaves. I. Finn will discuss the potential need for a temporary employee with the TA for August and part of September. The Board of Trustees is very much against the library remaining open if there is only one employee (a situation that arises on occasion with employees on leave, on vacation or needing to use sick time.) We understand that it is not a part of their collective bargaining agreement, but the TA has given permission to have Trustees or Friends of the Library help cover or to close early if that is not possible. The staff has been pitching in to make sure that the Children's programs are able to keep running in the absence of Terry Johnson.

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Director's reports: I. Finn shared reports from all of the departments with the exception of Children's with the board. Everything is going along well. C. Cunningham reported that there were 197 people in attendance for the summer reading kickoff on June 27. There are 200 people registered for summer reading. The Library of Things circulation is picking up. There are difficulties for cleaning the building when Hazel takes vacation.

Summer events: check the website for the many activities that are happening!

Friends of the Library report: A. Gregory reported that they are discussing ways to get word out about the Friends' group and maybe have some social activities. It is a work in progress. They meet on Monday, July 22 at 1:00 pm.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 28 at 3:30 pm. Board members are asked to send K. Fox Alfano preferred meeting time and day moving forward so we can get on a regular schedule. Share prior to the next meeting.

Agenda items will need to be submitted by the Thursday before the meeting, due to posting regulations.

The meeting adjourned at 4:49 pm on a motion by K. Fox Alfano and was unanimously agreed on by all in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Schmidt, secretary