



Minutes of the Library Board of Trustees January 22, 2024

Present: Marti Wolf, Jennifer Allocca, Dick Backus, Melissa Harvey, Jacob Field, Tanya Ricker (Library Director), Barbara Perry (Friends Representative)

Absent: John Fladd

Members of the Public: Susan Hansen, Christa Snyder, Kerri Kelly

Meeting called to order by Marti Wolf at 7:04 pm

Business carried over from Last Meeting:

The Memorandum of Understanding between the Library and the Friends of the Library: Inasmuch as the Friends did not meet last month, there was no new status; Candy Woodbury had previously expressed concerns that the gardening aspect of the Friends was not mentioned, but Barbara believes it is covered by the current MOU. To be reviewed at next meeting.

The Memorandum of understanding between the Library and the Town: to be reviewed at next meeting.

New Business:

It's budget season once again. Marti attended Finance Committee meetings and found them interesting. She circulated a draft of the warrant articles from the Budget Hearing.

Jennifer said the Town is working with Chris Emerson of EmerTech to provide cybersecurity for the Town. The Library can be included as part of the cybersecurity installation (cost to be paid by Select Board). The Library currently has a contract with Twin Bridge for IT services. Jennifer said that EmerTech and Twin Bridge systems would work together well. The Library has to decide whether it wants to participate in the cybersecurity option being offered on such short notice.

For the next meeting, Tanya will put together a proposed schedule of holiday closings and early closings prior to some holidays.

The planned staff appreciation celebration of and with the staff will be placed on the calendar sometime in the spring, perhaps during National Library Week which is April 7th to the 13th. The specifics of the celebration will be discussed at a later meeting.

A start was made in the discussion of possible projects for the future, spurred on by Marti's brainstorming list. Jake continues to work on the sign project for the end of the access road at Route 13. He will coordinate with the Fire Department, and a single, shared sign is a possibility.

The biggest possible future project is an expansion of the Library. The only location possible would be adding a room beyond the right side of the fireplace. How the space in that room could be allocated to fill Library needs was discussed inasmuch as specifics are needed before going ahead. It was agreed the expansion project should proceed with Tanya looking into what would be the best use of the space.

The Board will look into putting together a file of future projects so they will be "shovel ready" when

appropriate grants become available.

Dick suggested an essay contest each year on “What the library means to me” or “Why I love our library” with the winning essay to earn a \$500 scholarship. Perhaps the scholarship could be the Sarah Chapman Scholarship. This will require some investigation.

Tanya hopes to come up with programs that will bring in members of the community who don't normally use the library. One example would be events timed with the stocking of the Piscataquog with fish that is done from the library parking lot.

Jake would like to see a program to help limit screen time usage by school children. Dick suggested maybe the library could sponsor a “Screen-Free Week”. Various other ideas were discussed like “Whipple Unplugged” events.

Friends Report: The Friends haven't met since the last meeting so no report.

Review and Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the December 19th meeting were adopted without changes. Jennifer made a motion to approve; Melissa seconded; vote: unanimous. Minutes of brief January 9th meeting will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report: There was discussion of items to be addressed to close out the 2023 budget. Jennifer will query the auditor. Jake moved to approve the report; Dick seconded; all were in favor.

Director's Report: Largely unchanged from report presented at earlier meeting which was cut short due to weather. The water heater for the kitchen and two bathrooms died and had to be replaced at a cost of \$1,000. Granite State Plumbing did the replacement and suggested looking into filters for the water system as they believe high iron content caused the problem. They will give us a price. It was suggested that they be questioned as to the advisability of a water-softening system. The old bulletin board in the entryway was taken down to make place for the new locking bulletin board. Since the new one is smaller than the old one, and the old bulletin board was glued to the wall, wall damage will have to be dealt with.

Don Day celebration: Plans are going ahead. Presentation of town proclamation and personalized jacket from the Trustees will take place at 1:30 on 1/27. Dick will speak on behalf of the trustees.

Facilities Report: Nothing to report beyond the heating unit failure, now remedied.

Filing Dates for Trustee Elections: January 24th through February 2nd

Next Meeting: February 20th at 7pm

Jennifer moved to adjourn the meeting; Jake seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm

Respectfully submitted: Dick Backus, temporary secretary