

MADISON LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
FEBRUARY 17, 2021 @ 3:30 PM
JOHN F. CHICK ROOM
APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: Chair Cheryl Littlefield, John Filson, Mary Holmes, Bruce Kennedy, Karen Lord, Christina McAllister, Patti Rau, Linda Smith, Peter Stevens (via Zoom), Susan Lee, Friends of the Library (via Zoom); Sloane Jarell, Library Director

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Cheryl Littlefield called the meeting to order at 3:35 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 20, 2021 Regular Meeting: Motion by John Filson to approve the minutes of 1-20-21, seconded by Christina McAllister. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER: Cheryl Littlefield said the financial statements looked all right to her. Karen Lord asked about the expense for Facilities and Equipment. Library Director Sloane Jarell said that expense is for the air purifiers that were funded by the Friends.

Motion by Bruce Kennedy to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Karen Lord. The motion passed unanimously.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Sloane said the statistics were amazing, even better than pre-pandemic January 2020. She said we don't have the people walking in but they are getting what they need. She said upcoming programs include "Museum of Bad Art: Living in Tough Times," on February 21 at 5:00 PM. Sloane said she was hoping to get the Annual Report turned in this week. John Filson suggested adding in the fourth paragraph that the Trustees voted unanimously to include this in the minutes of the meeting. Christina McAllister suggested adding the word "support" to the first paragraph. In the last paragraph under "Volunteers," Mary Holmes suggested changing "men and women" to "people."

Motion by Karen Lord to amend the Annual Report as indicated, seconded by Bruce Kennedy. The motion passed unanimously.

GALLERY: Peter Stevens

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY: Susan Lee said the Zoom program for March will be "NH Roads Taken or Not." She said the membership notices and dues requests were mailed on Tuesday. She said the Friends received a donation of a 63-volume Britannica which was promptly sold.

OLD BUSINESS

Where are we going – brainstorm (Services survey results): Sloane said we had 83 responses to the survey and the results showed that most use the library for conventional things like books, audio, and DVD's. She said it became evident that people are not reading the newsletters. She said she was thinking of offering an item called "Did you Know" every week to try to get the message out. She said she thought we should try Kanopy, a streaming video service. Peter Stevens suggested having a handout for everyone

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coming into the library that shows the specialties that we offer. Patti Rau suggested putting something on Facebook once a week. Bruce Kennedy added that it would be useful to include pictures. Sloane said people were very interested in trying out classes, and perhaps virtual classes would be possible. Bruce said possibly some would be interested in teaching a course. Sloane said there was interest in outdoor games, and she suggested purchasing a corn hole. Karen Lord asked if there would be any liability for those kinds of things; Sloane said she would check on that. Sloane said overall people were positive, upbeat, and thankful. She said she would share the results of the survey with the board online.

Letter from Donna Veilleux: Follow-up from the last meeting. Sloane suggested sending a response to thank Ms. Veilleux for her awareness of the value of what people are doing, and to explain that the town is using funds that the library does not have. John Filson said he would write a draft letter.

NNHLC Annual Meeting will be held via Google Meet on April 6 at 3:00 PM: One trustee needed. Sloane said we can discuss this next month.

Treasurer vs. Bookkeeper – Discussion continued from last month regarding the resignation of Angela Johnson from the Treasurer position. The board discussed hiring a bookkeeper to spend approximately 2-3 hours a month on the financial reports for around \$35 per hour. The discussion included having both a bookkeeper and a board member as Treasurer who would oversee the finances. Board members asked for a job description or a list of duties. Sloane suggested setting up a virtual meeting with a bookkeeper candidate and some Trustees. John Filson said it would be helpful to have Angela come in and go over the financial statements with the board line by line.

NEW BUSINESS

“1st Amendment Audits”: Sloane notified the board that activists have been entering libraries in the southern part of the state and filming at will. She said there is concern by librarians regarding the privacy of patrons, but the advice from the state library is that filming must be allowed on public property. Nevertheless, they advised reporting these activities to the American Library Association. Susan Lee said patrons have an expectation of privacy on the computer and wondered if these activities could be considered harassment. Sloane said she was thinking of discussing this with the Madison Police Chief to see what, if anything, could be done if it happens here.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Bruce Kennedy to adjourn, seconded by John Filson. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 4:37 PM.

Next Meeting: March 17, 2021, 3:30 PM

Town of Madison, Board of Library Trustees
February 17, 2021
Approved Minutes
Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Ambrose
Recording Secretary
Draft Minutes e-mailed to the Trustees, Town Clerk, and Library Director on February 19, 2021

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