



Whipple Free Library
There's Always Another Chapter

MINUTES FOR LIBRARY TRUSTEES MEETING

April 20, 2021

Present (on Zoom): William Gould, Sarah Chapman, Dick Backus, Jennifer Allocca, Kate Fitzpatrick, Kim Bock, Betsy Whitman, Barbara Ballou, Dick Jardine.

Meet Kim Bock

- Bill introduced Kim Bock as an Alternate Trustee on the Board of Trustees.
- The library has been a big part of her family's life while they have lived in New Boston

Review and approve prior minutes

- The March minutes were approved by the Board.
- All members present voted approval of those minutes (Dick Backus not present).

Treasurer Reports

- Jennifer reviewed the budget report for April.
- The Library is trending well under budget in many categories, using the default budget from 2020.
- Expenses do not raise any flags; some are up, some are down.
- All members present approved the budget report (Dick Backus not present).

Library Director's Report

- The Board voted to approve two donations: one of \$50 and one of \$100. All members present voted approval.
- Barbara Ballou presented information on activities that she is planning for the summer:
 - Grant money (\$500) was obtained for a tent for outside activities.
 - The summer reading program will continue
 - Katy Ballou is under consideration to assist Barbara with youth activities for a six-week period this summer. The Board suggested that the position be advertised and potential candidates interviewed. Kate will assist in the posting.
- Sarah submitted a report reviewing a number of items:
 - Under the American Rescue Plan Act, funds may be available for library projects.
 - The lighting management company was here to finalize requisition and installation.
 - The alarm company was on site and the alarm system is currently working.
 - The Hillstown Co-op is inviting and sponsoring a program called *Departures and Arrivals: a Guide for Directors and Trustees*. Trustees are invited to attend.
 - Sarah recommends that we drop the requirement to quarantine materials. All members present were in favor.
 - Sarah also recommends dropping the current appointment system and permit a limited number of patrons into the building (e.g., 10 patrons in the library). All members present were in favor.
 - NHLTA Spring conference is May 12-13 and trustees are invited to attend (remotely).

- The Friends of the Library will be meeting in the community room on May 11th.

Project Reports

- Solar Display: The poster is at the library and is ready to be mounted as soon as a location is determined and the iPad emplaced.
- The outdoor patio project brainstorming continues. Roger Dignard has been helpful in identifying where the patio can and cannot be placed. Roger provided a concept drawing for an outdoor reading pavillion, which may cost between \$10,000-\$15,000. He feels that local contractors could do the job readily. The Friends have been consulted about partnering in the project. Jennifer will send the information Roger provided to the Trustees and to the Director for comment.
- Kate is waiting for a quote from the vendor for different formats. As soon as she gets it, she'll forward the information to the Trustees.

Human Resources Report

- The Little Free Library is to be erected next week by the Girl Scouts outside the Recreation Department Building. Marie MacDonald has been contacted for publicity.

Friends Report

- The Friends of the Library will be meeting in the community room on May 11th at 7 p.m, with distancing.

Facilities Report

- Dick B. and Sarah have discussed the replacement of the stockade fencing hiding the outside utility boxes. Further investigation will be done.

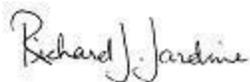
New Business

- Betsy proposed that the Trustees meet in person in the future. All present agreed that the next meeting will be in-person in the community room with all precautions enforced.
- The deliberative session for the town is May 3rd, with voting on June 8th.

The Board adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Next meeting is May 18, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dick Jardine, Secretary