Bancroft Memorial Library

Board of Library Trustees

Minutes: April 4, 2023

Present: Frederick Oldfield III, Chair, Christine Seaver, Secretary, Marie Riddell, Tricia Perry, Library Director,

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m.

Library Minutes:

* Christine Seaver made a motion, and Marie Riddell seconded to accept the minutes for March 9, 2023. All voted in favor.

Director’s Report:

* Accepted as submitted.

Budget Update FY23

* The FY23 budget is tracking according to plan. Payroll expenses are right on track and the materials budget being closely monitored and reviewed as we approach the end of the fiscal year. The elevator is scheduled for its mandatory state inspection check at the end of April.

Budget Update FY24 Prop 2 ½ Override

* Department heads, members of the Finance Committee, and the Select Board have unanimously approved putting an operational override on the Town Meeting Warrant for May 16, 2023 in the amount of $1,350,000. If the override passes at Town Meeting, a special election will be held on May 23rd to confirm the vote. As municipal employees, library staff may only provide factual information; and no municipal resources may be used for advocacy efforts. The Friends of the Hopedale Library will be critical in sharing information about what happens if the override fails and the library closes.
* If the Override fails, the Library will be closed as of July 1st and lose its certification. Borrowing privileges for Hopedale residents at many libraries in the CWMars and other networks would be revoked. Losing certification due to library closure can lead to a multi-year process before it might be eligible for recertification by the MBLC, even if was reopened for FY25. According to the MBLC, a library must have a full year of municipal appropriations before it can be certified and eligible for state aid. A library would not get a waiver if they close or budget cuts are not even across all town departments. Information about the effects of an Override failure are still being collected.
* The Library is working with the school department on an infographic to educate townspeople about would happen if the Override fails.

2023 Summer Reading Program Update

* The Summer Reading Program schedule is getting finalized. Materials have been ordered.

Development of a new Strategic Plan:

* A Strategic Plan survey will be in the April free Hopedale paper. Survey can be dropped off at the COA, Hopedale Post Office, Hopedale Town Hall Assessor’s Office or at the Library. The form can also be completed online by scanning a QR code.

Friends of the Hopedale Library:

* Southwick’s Zoo passes will be distributed by lottery to 25 people (2 tickets per family). Hopedale residents can enter the lottery by visiting the library from April 1st through April 15th. Winners will be notified on April 15th.
* Fundraising- Friends of the Hopedale Library raised $500 at their fundraising night at Dairy Queen on March 16th. Raffles baskets will be displayed at the library starting April 15th. The winners will be selected on April 29th. The FlowerPower.com fundraiser will run through May 15th.
* The Friends of the Hopedale Library annual membership flyer will be distributed in the May Town Pages Hopedale newspaper.
* Joy Marzolf will present NE Natures Talks: Wildlife in Your Backyard on April 29th. Michael Tougias will present King Philip’s War on May 17th.

New Business:

* Proposed changes to summer hours are to be open Fridays from 10 am to 2 pm from Friday, July 7th through Friday September 1st. Christine Seaver made a motion and Marie Riddell seconded the motion to approve these changes to summer hours.

Public Participation:

* None

Adjournment

* Christine Seaver made a motion and Marie Riddell seconded to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

The next Trustees’ meeting will be on May 2, 2023 at 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Seaver, Secretary