Bancroft Memorial Library

Board of Library Trustees

Minutes: December 13, 2022

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m.

Library Minutes:

* Motion made by Christine Seaver and seconded by Marie Riddell to accept the minutes for November 1, 2022. All voted in favor.

Statue of Hope Update:

* The statue is under wraps and looks well protected. Veteran’s Scaffolding will check the structure once a week.

Director’s Report:

* Accepted as submitted.

Budget Update:

* We are ½ way through the fiscal year and the library has been tracking expenditures according to plan. Higher energy bills are not apparent yet but expected. The blowers in the downstairs of the library are not working well and will need work. The copier (part of Professional & Technical budget) is almost through a 3-year lease. The leasing company will replace the machine and the cost will increase $10 a month. The interim town administrator, Jeff Nutting, has asked that initial department budgets be submitted by the second week of January.

Programming Initiatives:

* 1000 Books Before Kindergarten is a nationwide challenge to encourage parents and caregivers to read regularly to their children. The library is partnering with Bright Beginnings Center. Tricia and Kristen Poisson are working together on the program. Middlesex Savings Bank has awarded the library a $200 incentive towards the program. The children’s collection is being weeded in anticipation for this program. Thematic book bundles will be created.
* 50+ Job Seekers Networking Group Meetings will take place from January through June. This Zoom program has 2 topics each month and is available during the day and at night. Sixty-five libraries in MA are participating. Our cost was $100.
* One Book/One Town was kicked off with the StoryWalk featuring the “Water Princess” on the lawn at the Hopedale Community House. Hopedale Junior/Senior High School has several classes reading “A Long Walk to Water” and the students are raising funds to be donated to Heifer International’s Gift of Water for Life solar well initiative.

Libraries Transforming Communities Grant Application:

* The grant application for small libraries was submitted (due 11/22/22). Possible improvements could include a collaborative workspace, sensory tables, smartboards, and/or new chairs. May hear by December 20th

Old Business

* Fighting the Good Fight with Dr. Martin Garnar was held at the Unitarian Church. There was a lively discussion after the presentation.
* The library participated in the Winter Stroll on December 3, 2022. The weather may have deterred some people earlier in the day. About 15 people attended the Holiday Harmony program. The ongoing pinecone craft was very popular. The library participated in the Cocoa Crawl and ran out of both cocoa and cider.

New Business:

* Guardian Energy (LED lighting grant supplier) may be able to add inside storms for non-lead windows in the basement and stacks to improve energy conservation in the building. The town was the grantee, not the library directly, so we are waiting to hear.

Public Participation:

* None

Adjournment

* Motion made by Fred Oldfield and seconded by Marie Riddell to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 4:3 p.m.

The next Trustees’ meeting will be on January 3, 2023 at 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Seaver

Secretary