BANCROFT MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

January 26, 2021

The Meeting was called to order at 4:14 p.m.  Present were Trustees Katherine Wright, Nancy Verdolino and Fred Oldfield (Chair), Director Robyn York, and Hopedale Cable Access which recorded the meeting.  The participants held the meeting live via a pre-scheduled Zoom Meeting (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82441526084?pwd=SDBNNpEd29zUkJCZzY5b1haVDPQT09>).

MINUTES:

The minutes from the meetings of December 2, 2020 and December 14, 2020 were not reviewed.

PUBLIC FORUM:

No members of the general public were present at the meeting and there was no correspondence from same.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

The Director reported that, almost half way through the year, spending is under the Budget due to COVID closures. Issues with the blowers in the furnace cost over $3,000 to resolve, 2 full days of work from electrician Joe Scanzaroli and Energy Efficiency. The MBLC has relaxed a few regulations. Bob Erbetta from Nutshell came last week with Bob from TopSafe Services, Inc. (scaffolding) of Bridgewater. He looked at the framing and will give us a new design out of metal which will be better suited to protecting the Statue. The issue of who will pay is evolving and will be pursued by the Town Administrator.

The Director has pulled together a Budget for next Fiscal Year to meet the minimum appropriations requirement. She pulled out Hope Plaza as a separate line item and put $5,000 as a “placeholder” to be adjusted year to year, as necessary.

The Director noted that Capital Planning is due this week. The Town has approved $100,000 for repair of the Library’s roof. Bob Reed and she had discussed $60,000 for repointing the building and fixing the front door. Nancy Verdolino mentioned that the trim needs painting, along with door. There was discussion about repainting the trim and door, since the last time it was done was in 2004, by Frend’s Painting of Northbridge, MA using “New London Burgundy,” a Benjamin Moore color. We will consider adding that into the maintenance line for next year.

The Director found that a Library cannot apply for a new Mass. Historical Grant MPPF while it still has an incomplete grant and our Round 26 grant is not completed. Won’t be finished until after the deadline for Round 27, so she recommends we plan to apply in Round 28 for FY’23.

The second Capital Planning item addressed is the Furnace. Because the furnace is about 30 years old the Town is looking into a more efficient burner or at least a new one, relative to the movement to make the Town “greener”.

Parking spaces. The Director doesn’t think we need to pay anything during COVID now, but she doesn’t have documentation about paying. WE didn’t sign anything for our spaces, the Board of Selectmen did, and the Director wants to discuss that with the Finance Committee, to renegotiate the fee for using the parking spaces. Since the Library had not contracted with the Medical Complex next door about the use of parking spaces, it doesn’t make sense to require the expense to come out of the Library’s budget. It’s very disappointing to not have safe parking for families and the elderly.

The Director reported that our municipal appropriation requirement this year is $285,733.19.

The Director was hoping to increase walk-in hours. The Library has to return to appointment-only according to a memo received this afternoon from the Board of Health. The Town’s COVID restrictions have dropped back to Phase 3, Step 1. The Town Administrator sent an email to the Director that the Library must return to curbside pickup and appointment. The Director posted sign on doors and posted in website that walk-in is over.

The Director has issued the following notice:

“Please be advised that effective today, the Library is closed to walk-ins starting immediately. As a result of the state rollback to Phase Three, Step One and direction from the Town of Hopedale, the Library is open by appointment only and curbside hours have been expanded. Delivery is available. Please call us with any questions: 508-634-2209.

Appointments and curbside services are available these days/times:

Monday 1 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday 1 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Thursday 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Friday 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Saturday 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.”

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is planned for Tuesday, March 9th, at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Wright