

Langdon Library Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes August 13, 2020

This meeting of the Langdon Library Board of Trustees was held in the tent outside of town hall.

Meeting called to order by CH at 1:32 PM

Present: Trustees Jack O'Reilly (JO); David Turbide (DT), Peter Welch (PW), Catherine Hazelton (CH), Lillian Wilson (LW); Alternate Lee Lamson (LL); Library Director Lara Croft Berry (LCB)

The first order of business was to approve the minutes from the July 30, 2020 meeting Moved by JO, seconded by PW, minutes approved 5 – 0.

Treasurer's Report: Spending is in line with expectations and the budget for this point in the year. Note that the library has been spending trustee funds first, in place of town money, in order to reduce the cash requirements from the town as requested by the select board. Our target is to reduce town funds expenditures by ten percent pending further information from the selectmen as to tax revenues and any projected shortfall over the next few months. A motion endorsed LCBs efforts to reduce spending – target 10% - moved by PW, seconded by LW, passed 5 – 0

On a related note, JO learned from Natch Greyes at NHMA that the trustee board may use trustee funds without formally encumbering because they were budgeted specifically for a contract, according to RSA 32:7-1. LCB learned from Steve Buckley at NHMA that we can use trustee funds without gross budgeting them as long as it is within the parameters of the original donor, according to RSA 31:32.

Parking Lot Update: The bid package has been distributed and a pre-bid conference is set for Tuesday August 18. Bid deadline is August 28 at 2 PM and the contract could be awarded very shortly thereafter, perhaps even the same day. Work should start September 14 and is expected to take 2 to 3 weeks to complete. A motion was made to authorize trustee board chair CH to sign the winning contract if at or below budget without convening another meeting of the board. Moved by JO, seconded by LW, passed 5 – 0

Director's Report: Most issues and activities currently ongoing are covered elsewhere in this report. Library operations are going smoothly in this initial reopening phase. The two days of controlled in-building browsing is going well and seems to be enough to meet demand so far. When there are more patrons interested in coming into the library than available appointments, an additional day (probably Saturday) will be added to the schedule.

LCB pointed out a discrepancy between her current contract, which specifies 15 vacation days this year, compared to the policy that states that she is entitled to 18 days based on her 6 years of service. All agreed that this was an oversight and a motion corrected the contract to include 18 days in 2020. Moved by JO, seconded by CH, passed 5 – 0. Note that LCB plans to take several days of vacation in September.

One patron, at the book group session, requested that the library change from using the Dewey Decimal System as the Dewey is considered racist in its origins and structure. Noting that the way Langdon Library uses Dewey eliminates the racist classification decisions, LCB told the group, and the board, that there are alternative systems that are more modern, not all racist, and provide for more efficient browsing for patrons by grouping (non-fiction) books more conveniently. To change classifications for the entire library's

collection, however, would be a huge task, very disruptive, and cannot be done by volunteers. A trained librarian is needed to make the decisions for each book to be reclassified. While one or more current staffer(s) could be trained, there are simply no extra hours available to undertake this task and hiring another staff person is simply out of the question given current operational concerns and restrictions. LCB has suggested possibly reclassifying the children's book section as a demonstration project if some extra hours can be identified to pursue this task.

Policies: The trustees reviewed the Response to Law Enforcement and Request for Library Information policy as scheduled and approved the policy as written. Moved by PW, seconded by JO, Passed 5 – 0

Board meeting adjourned - moved by PW, seconded by CH, passed 5-0 at 3:31 PM

Next Meeting: Thursday September 24 at 1:30PM. An "extra" meeting is scheduled for 1:30 PM on September 3 to work on the 2021 budget. Both meetings will be held in the town hall large meeting room.

Respectfully Submitted: David A Turbide, board secretary