

Langdon Library Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes August 18, 2022

Present: Trustees Jack O'Reilly (JO), David Turbide (DT), Peter Welch (PW, left at 6:30), Paul Pelletier (PP); Library Director Lara Croft Berry (LCB)

Meeting called to order by JO at 5:30 PM

The first order of business was to approve the minutes from our last meeting on July 21, 2022. Moved by DT, seconded by PP, minutes approved 4 – 0

Treasurer's Report: Financially, things are going about as expected for the first seven months of the fiscal year with the exception of two accounts – electricity and maintenance – which are both above expectations. High spending for electricity is primarily due to the very hot summer temperatures but will remain above budget going forward because of the huge increase in rate that just went into effect. LCB is researching options for other power providers but has not yet identified an option that would significantly reduce our costs in future months. Maintenance is high because of several unusual expenses incurred earlier this year. We believe that neither of these situations will cause an overall budget overrun for the full year as there are places where we can reduce expenses and balance out the totals. This is a priority for library management and trustees. The need to closely monitor utility bills and payments as they occur underscores the need to make the disbursement changes we have requested from the select board. The letter requesting that change will be re-sent and discussions will continue as there has been no final agreement as yet. The sandwich board sign has been slightly repositioned and better secured.

Director's Report: Trustees and library staff all agree that the masks optional or recommended appears to be the right policy at this time. There was again considerable discussion of the drought and the poor appearance of the lawn in front of the library. We are getting conflicting recommendations from our vendors and will continue to research and monitor the situation through the rest of the growing season with no changes in watering schedule at this time. The cost of water is not the issue. Rather we are balancing the appearance of the lawn versus water conservation and potential permanent damage to the grass that would have to be dealt with in the spring. Brittany will be attending three upcoming workshops. JO and LCB served on the oral hiring board for the Recreation Director position. The cataloging assistant position has been posted (Deb Kohlhasse's position). Summer reading is completed – 37 young people and 30 teens/adults participated, reading a total of 89 books. 55 people attended the finale. A big thank you to JO for his help. July was the busiest month of the year so far, approaching "normal" pre-COVID levels of circulation.

Building Maintenance: There was some minor leakage into the old building cellar during the wind-driven rain last week. We believe this was an unusual occurrence that is unlikely to recur – the drainage upgrade completed in the spring are doing their job under normal conditions. The town has asked about the dirt currently stored behind the stone school that originally came from library construction. The dirt was made available for any town use when it was put there and remains available. The library doesn't need it – confirmed by trustee vote; moved by JO, seconded by PW, passed 4 – 0.

Policies: No policies reviewed this month.

Donation acceptance: Trustees voted to accept miscellaneous cash donations totaling \$12. Moved by JO, seconded by DT, passed 3-0 (after PW left the meeting).

Board meeting adjourned - moved by JDT seconded by PP, passed 3-0 at 7:20 PM

Next Meeting: Thursday September 15 at 5:30 PM, at the library.

Respectfully Submitted: David A Turbide, board secretary