

Minutes
Grafton Public Library, Board of Trustees
Date: April 14, 2022

Present: George, Susan (filling in for Karen), Andrew, Kate, Leif, Denise and Paul

Absent: Karen Johnson

Called to order 6:02

Immediate Business

George motioned to approve the minutes as amended by Susan. Susan seconded, all in favor.

George provided a revised MOU between the Town and the Trustees outlining financial responsibilities. There was a discussion about the necessity of the cassette toilet in the closet, previously provided for a handicapped staff member. A larger discussion was had about what constitutes necessary services in a library (i.e. software, media, etc.). This discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

George shared a letter from the town's counsel to Sue Smith regarding the binding nature of the 2020 warrant article, which resulted in a favorable approval for the Trustees and FOGL to pursue building a library on the library lot. The article was non-binding because it did not appropriate money.

George moved to approve FOGL's request for use of the library lot for their annual events. Susan seconded, all in favor. The Trustees will now seek approval from the Selectmen.

Library Director

Kate shared the March report, showing an increase in media circulation and two new patrons.

Lynn is now fully trained and is proving to be an invaluable asset to the library.

Upcoming programs include kids' program, "A Walk in Grafton" on 4/19 at 1pm with Sandi Pierson; Astronomy Club 5/7 at 7:30pm; a FOGL and NH Humanities presentation on cemeteries on 5/14 at 1pm at the East Grafton Union Church; and town-wide BBQ on 5/28.

Talk of a spring cleanup was postponed until the town hires for lawn maintenance. Susan and Gretchen will start the garden project proposed last year to soften the ADA ramp and concrete walkway.

Susan and Kate are working on submitting a technology grant through the NH Charitable Foundation, to support a coding program for ages 10+.

Financial

Susan presented the treasurer's report in Karen's absence. Susan reminded the Trustees that because staff wages are not reflected up-to-date in the monthly reports, the percentage of budget is not quite accurate. This is important because wages are the library's biggest expense.

Invoices were passed around.

All donations were approved upon a motion by George and seconded by Andrew.

Trustees completed a questionnaire provided by the town auditors.

Committee Updates

No representative from FOGL was present, but Susan shared an update about the group's commitment to building a sign along Route 4. FOGL will prepare options for the Trustees' approval in the coming months. Leif said that the Town could be interested in splitting the bill if it were combined with town messages.

Susan shared a document she produced that summarized and chronicled discussions about the library facility, starting in 2004 when the library capital reserve fund was created. The findings were that familiar topics over the past nearly twenty years have included lack of space, lack of bathroom facility, lack of parking, and poor accessibility.

Leif shared some ideas and findings about a bathroom on site using an 1,800 gallon cistern. Andrew suggested another solution with a village septic system to solve many properties' septic problems. All agreed that it's important to pursue all options to show we've done our homework and that the library building could have a new chapter of life post-library should the library move.

Other Business

It was shared that Karen and Kate will attend the Library Trustees conference on 5/10.

Public Comment

Adjournment at 7:44 pm

Next meeting: May 26, 2022