

**Minutes**  
Grafton Public Library, Board of Trustees  
Held at the Library  
Date: May 26, 2022

**In attendance:** George Curran, Karen Johnson, Andrew Cushing, Susan Fienberg, Paul Vogt, Leif Hogue, Elaina Bergamini (6:15).

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm.

**Immediate Business**

George made a motion to approve the April minutes, Karen seconded. All in favor.

**Library Director**

Kate shared the director's report, showing steady usage of the library and circulation.

Volunteers beautified the library yard since the last meeting, with a new perennial garden and refreshed bench. It looks great and the Trustees expressed their appreciation for the volunteers.

Susan and Kate shared that the Grafton library received a \$4,160 grant from the NH Charitable Foundation for the purposes of purchasing laptops and a staff computer. Tom McGinty is volunteering to acquire the computers from Dell, negotiating for a discount and for the proper software. This new equipment will be a big improvement for the library staff and patrons.

Kate is planning summer programs, including summer reading incentives and a moth observation evening led by Laurie Sullivan. Sabrina Kirwan has also volunteered to run a "coding camp" for local kids.

George made a motion to withdraw the accrued interest from the accounts overseen by the Trustees of the Trust Funds. Karen seconded, all in favor.

Kate shared that the portable toilet bill came in higher than agreed and higher than what the Recreation Committee pays. Trustees agreed that the higher cost will be absorbed into the budget, somehow.

**Facility Considerations**

Susan shared her tracking of the Strategic Plan:

- increased programming in collaboration with town groups and committees
- improved communication with newsletters and planning for a sign
- acquisition of grant funding toward goal of \$10,000/year (about 50% as of May)
- continued conversation about optimizing open hours

Regarding the facility, Susan has observed several programs and made notes about how the current facility works and doesn't work:

- currently, the library is making do, but it is at capacity and limiting future programming
- patrons mention poor parking, handicap access, and bathroom facilities as a reason for limiting their use of the library
- spatial solutions inside the library can solve one problem, but cause others (ie, the relocated children's corner conflicts with the "work station")

Susan also summarized facility needs identified by Trustees and FOGL since 2014.

Susan asked the Trustees if they are in favor of moving forward with the proposal to address the facility needs. Andrew shared frustration with the years of studies and pushback from town leaders who do not share the vision of the Trustees. Andrew encouraged a holistic approach, to address/combine multiple town needs into the barn proposal.

Karen agreed that we need a bigger library and that waiting another fifteen years is not ideal.

George also agreed that a long term plan must include a new library, but questioned whether a short term plan should be developed to address the current library building's shortcomings. He brought up Leif's earlier idea to add onto the existing library. Andrew countered that a bathroom addition on site should be evaluated, but would not solve other issues like access, limited space needs, and parking. Such a solution would lead to the Trustees and town discussing facility shortcomings 25 years from now.

Andrew made a motion for the Trustees to pursue constructing a new library as part of a long-range plan to meet facility needs and realize the library's vision; Karen seconded. All in favor.

Andrew offered to help with a study that would look at town buildings holistically. Trustees and Elaina discussed where the notes are from years past regarding the septic/well/addition on the current site and agreed that we may need to have those conversations again with designers.

Susan suggested next steps would be to look at options for moving forward at the June meeting. Andrew offered to create a document listing and elaborating on those options.

## **Financial**

Karen shared the financial report and passed around invoices/receipts for approval. George motioned to approve all invoices and accept the media donations. Karen seconded, all in favor.

## **Committee Updates**

Elaina shared updates with FOGL.

A bench from the recycled plastic drive is looking for a home on the library lot. Andrew made a motion to accept the bench and for George to request permission from the selectmen to place the bench on the library lot. George seconded, all in favor.

Elaina asked to pursue building a storage shed on the library lot. George motioned to move forward with this idea, Karen seconded. Unanimous. Elaina will present a more formal plan in the coming months and George will prepare the request.

Memorial Day BBQ and town wide yard sale is Saturday, May 28, 8am.

George shared an update to the MOU based on a conversation with the State Librarian, Michael York. Mr. York believes that a town library and its name is proprietary and should not be used by Friends' groups without direct permission. Andrew shared strong feelings that such an arrangement would micromanage the Trustees and FOGL relationship and erode trust between the entities. Andrew also stated that the involvement of Mr. York raises a red flag, that perhaps the selectboard is continuing to intervene in library business.

### **Other Business**

Karen attended the NH Library Trustees Association conference and felt that it was very good and worthwhile.

### **Public Comment**

None.

**Adjournment at 7:56pm**

**Next meeting: June 16, 2022**