

MINUTES

Grafton Library Trustees Meeting 1/26/23
Grafton Public Library

Present: Jeff Nunes, Andrew Cushing, Karen Johnson

Deb Clough, Paige Parrish, Joe Pasco, Leif Hogue, Jake Vogel, Elaina Bergamini,
Catherine Mulholland

Called to order at 6:05 pm.

Immediate Business

Approval of last two meeting's minutes. Jeff motioned to approve, Karen seconded. Andrew abstained for the minutes of 1/11 due to absence.

Hiring of library director. Andrew abstained due to a familial connection with the sole applicant. Karen spoke in favor of hiring the new applicant. Jeff abstained, stating that while he had nothing against the candidate, he believed that the library should close temporarily. The savings from the closure could then be directed toward the new library's construction. A lot of discussion was had between the trustees and audience members to encourage hiring library staff, but Jeff stated he would not change his mind.

There not being enough votes, no library director was hired.

Andrew shared that a new unit from JBC was to be delivered early next week, thanks to an agreement by the town to pay for the unit directly and deduct the cost from the trustee's account (much like the other utilities).

Library Business

No director's report this month.

Karen shared the treasurer's report, including discussion about rolling over maturing CDs at Mascoma Bank. It was decided that even though Mascoma Bank offered lesser interest rates, it was convenient to remain with the same banking institution. Andrew motioned to approve the treasurer's report and all donations, Jeff seconded.

Programming in 2023 was discussed. Andrew stated that he'd like to promote an organized series in conjunction with FOGL to be finalized and discussed at future meetings.

Elaina asked for permission to pilot a water coloring workshop in the library on Saturdays. Based on the strategic plan and desire to expand the library's offerings to the community, the trustees thought it was a good idea. Likewise, Elaina suggested she spearhead the "upcycling" activity around Earth Day, as called for in the strategic plan.

Andrew reminded the trustees and audience about the importance of the town's deliberative session on Saturday, February 11 at 10am at the fire station. Andrew said that he would like to amend the budget to re-instate the funding for library operations and utilities, money the budget committee removed (specifically electricity, media, and wages).

Committee Updates

FOGL shared their 2023 events including the lasagna dinner, BBQ at Memorial Day, Garlic Gathering, and wreath making. The trustees saw no issue with the slate of programs or use of the Gray lot and thanked FOGL for their continued support and fundraising on behalf of the library.

Elaina asked how best FOGL should work with the trustees to develop a website, especially to share information about the library construction project. Andrew stated that FOGL didn't need trustee approval for their own website and any library construction material could be on both town and FOGL website, or at least the town website could direct people to the FOGL site that shared approved material.

Andrew shared that Susan Fienberg wished to spread the good news about the growing book club, last at thirteen attendees. 2023's list of books would be available for perusal at the library.

Andrew reminded everyone about the goals for 2023 in the Strategic Plan:

- a. continuing to improve communication
- b. study and address facility needs
- c. optimize library hours
- d. build up library volunteer base and program
- e. plan programs about local topics of interest
- f. seek out and acquire grant funding

It was agreed that many of these items would be possible once/if a new director is hired. FOGL has agreed to continue paying for the library newsletters.

Other Business

Andrew asked about Jeff's interest in changing his mind about hiring a director. Jeff stated no.

Trustees and FOGL agreed to meet 2/4/23 at the library at 1pm to discuss communication strategy and building plans. Elaina said she would ask the interior architect, site planner, and energy analyst for the project if they could also attend. Andrew said he would get the meeting posted.

Leif asked for the astronomy club to clean up after themselves at future programs at the town hall.

Adjourned at 7:14pm.

Next regularly scheduled meeting is 2/16/23, 6pm, at the Library.