

## **Minutes for Norwell Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting**

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

Present: Jeanne Hagelstein-Ivas (Chair), Kathryn Mudgett (Vice Chair), Rachel Breen (Director), Sarah Cassidy, Monika Brodsky and Lauren McNeil (via Zoom).

Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM

Additions to the Agenda: FY24 Budget request, April meeting date.

February Minutes were approved.

Director's report was given. A wide variety of programs were offered including a film viewing, book club and book group, author readings, craft programs and regular monthly programs including Tai Chi, Knitting Group and a new offering of yoga. The Children's programming included frequent favorites Mama Steph, Baby playgroup, crafts, music making and read to therapy dogs, among others. There was also the community event of a Peruvian dance group. Also, the March newsletter was posted, and two art exhibits were hosted.

Financial report. Electricity costs were \$31,000 for three months. Expectation of lower cost in summer as cooling less costly than heating. Reserve fund may need to be used. Question was asked about our gas usage. Some baseboard gas heating is located by adult wing windows, also used by gas fireplace in reading room (but only by patron request, which hasn't occurred very often).

FY24 Budget: with Town Administrator Darlene Sullivan's recommendation, some cuts were made to the library's requested budget. Cuts were also made to other town department budgets.

Friends of NPL have two new volunteers. Their next meeting is April 12 at 6:30 PM. They received a donation given in memory of Kathy McGuire for \$1,800.00. They are sending requests for sponsorship to Clean Harbors, The Cordwainer and the Chamber of Commerce. The Friends are looking for someone to coordinate their social media.

Personnel changes include Sharon Ulette, library associate, will change to being a substitute instead of a regular position. The library seeks to hire two staff members for evenings on Tuesday and Wednesday and 10 – 1 every other Saturday.

The sustainability and Recycling Committee has a Recycling Crayon Initiative and asked the library to participate. The committee will collect and melt down old crayons and repurpose them into new ones.

16 pajamas were collected for the Bruins drive.

Landscape work will again be with Haskins Landscaping. In the next two weeks they will do the spring cleanup including the mulching, weeding and edging on the grounds. It will be \$520 for biweekly mowing thereafter. Total of \$2,500.00 (from \$1,500.00 for mulching and weeding and \$1,000.00 for the spring cleanup). They will put down loam where any damaged areas are (from snowplowing) and reseed.

An offer of a piano donation was made by Margo Euler, Director of the Broadcove choral group. She is willing to donate a 5 – 6’ Steinway grand piano. This would be with the provision that the choral group would be able to rehearse every Wednesday morning in the Meeting Room and to have all their recitals and concerts there (also Wednesday mornings). The board voted to decline this generous offer as it would prove disruptive to existing library programming.

Rachel proposed that Norwell Public Library be a fine-free library. This would be in line with other south shore libraries including Marshfield, Duxbury and Cohasset. The board will continue discussion on this issue at our next meeting.

Appropriate Library Use Policy. Rachel updated this policy, which included condensing some policies. Suggestion was made to put in policy that 30 minutes prior to closing of library there would be a warning given that the computers would shut down in 15 minutes. In reference to collecting signatures for names to be put on the town ballot, it was felt that allowing signatures to be collected in the vestibule would be too crowded, therefore it will be amended to allow for collection in person outside of the library entrance. With these amendments, the updated Library Policies were approved.

The next meeting was originally scheduled to occur April 11. Due to postponement of the March meeting, it has been rescheduled to occur on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 7 PM. (May meeting will be held on May 16, 2023 at 7 PM).

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM.

Minutes recorded by Monika Brodsky