

**Norwell Public Library Board of Trustees**  
**Minutes 10/17/2023**

**Present:** Kathryn Mudgett (Chair), Monika Brodsky, Chris Smith, Lauren McNeil, Rachel Breen (Director), Pam Achille

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.

**Public Comments:** None

**Additions to Agenda:** Program Attendance: Discussion about how to encourage patrons who register for programs to either attend the program or to let the library know if they are not going to attend so that other patrons can then take the open spot. Director Rachel Breen will add a request in the email reminders sent to patrons to please cancel their registrations if they are not coming to the program.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from September 19 meeting were unanimously approved.

**Director's Report:** In September there were almost 7,700 walk-in visits to the library and 73 new library cards were issued, bringing the total number of active cards to 5,301. Over 6,400 items were checked out. Hoopla, Consumer Reports, and Libby magazines continue to be the most used digital resources.

September Adult programs included Tai Chi, Basic Tech Help, Craft Knitting Night, Dinner and a Movie, Mindful Yoga, morning and evening Book Clubs, a Guided Forest Walk at NPL with guide Steve Ivas, an Author Talk with Jeff Romano about his latest guidebook *100 Classic Hikes: New England*, and a Chef Abby program sharing simple baking tips.

In collaboration with Tewksbury the library offered 2 virtual programs: Romance Author Piper Huguley discussing her latest book *By Her Own Design: A Novel of Ann Lowe, Fashion Designer to the Social Register* and NASA scientist Dr. Elizabeth Hoy presenting "How NASA is Combating Climate Change."

Teen programs included a Movie Night, a Take & Make Sunflower Wreath Craft Kit, the Teen Book Club read and discussed the book *Nimona* by ND Stevenson, and a meeting of the Teen Advisory Group (TAG).

Children's programs included Storytime with Marissa, Baby Playgroup, Read to Spider the Therapy Dog, Halloween Clay Bobbleheads with Pop Up Art School, Spanish Storytime, and the South Shore Community Action Council held their STEM Playgroup weekly at the library from September 20<sup>th</sup> – October 25<sup>th</sup>.

To kick off Banned Books Week the library joined the MBLC in their statewide Read-In event to celebrate our freedom to read on September 30. Patrons were invited to visit the library and find a comfy spot to read while enjoying light refreshments. Many patrons filled out a FREEDOM to Read magnet describing what the freedom of reading is to them.

Community groups and committees such as the Norwell Historical Commission, Norwell School Committee, the Norwell Democratic Town Committee, the Norwell Commission on Disabilities, the Norwell Garden Club, Girl Scout groups and the Norwell Women's Business League utilized the Meeting Room and Local History Room for programs and meetings.

The September Art Exhibit featured the work of artist Robyn Thompson-Duong, and a Meet the Artist event was held on September 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Financial Report:** At the end of September the remaining FY24 balance in personnel services was \$447,922.02. The remaining balance in general expenses was \$200,748.89. The total cash receipts from September totaled \$605.66 and the total copier/printer receipts totaled \$127.00.

**Friends:** The Friends are planning a Fall Pop Up Book Sale on October 21 which will also include Face Painting, Crafts, a Storytime, several Raffles, and a visit from Skipper the Therapy Dog.

**NPL Foundation:** Frank White has resigned from the position of President and Tracy White has resigned from the position of Treasurer of the Foundation. New officers are being sought with several residents expressing interest.

**Library updates:** There have been ongoing incidents of loud, disruptive, and sometimes destructive behavior by some of the tweens and teens coming into the library after school. School Resource Officer Phelps has been by to speak to some of the groups and remind them of expected behavior and the Library Appropriate Use Policy.

**Upcoming Meeting Dates:**

**November 14, 2023**

**December 12, 2023**

**January 16, 2024**

**February 13, 2024**

**March 19, 2024**

**April 23, 2024**

**May 21, 2024**

**June 18, 2024**

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm.

Minutes recorded by Pam Achille.