

Norwell Public Library Board of Trustees

Minutes 11/14/2023

Present: Kathryn Mudgett (Chair), Sarah Cassidy (Vice-Chair), Monika Brodsky via Zoom, 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: State Aid Award – The library received the initial award of the FY24 State Aid to Public Libraries in the amount of \$14,391.54.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the October 17 meeting were unanimously approved.

Director's Report: In October there 7,993 walk-in visits to the library and 103 new library cards were issued, bringing the total active cardholders to 5,402. Over 5,600 items were checked out, and Libby Magazines, Hoopla, and Freegal were the most used digital resources.

Adult programs in October included Book Groups, Tai Chi, Mindful Yoga, Knitting Night, Dinner and a Movie, Ultimate Presentation for Red Sox Nation with Author Martin Gitlin, a felting workshop with Felted Bee, a Sourdough Starter Workshop with Sourdough Brandon, a Halloween Card making workshop, a visit from Guiding Eyes for the Blind, a group of volunteer puppy raisers, and in collaboration with Ashland Public Library and the Watertown Free Public Library there were three virtual Author Q &A programs with Authors Denny S Bryce, Andrea Penrose, and Melissa Lozada-Olivia.

Teen programs included the monthly Book Club and Teen Advisory Group meetings, a Paint Your Own Plastic Pumpkin program, a Make Your Own Slime workshop, and a ghost themed Take and Make Craft.

Children's programs included Take and Make Mini Pumpkins, Mama Steph, Baby Playgroups and Storytimes, Yoga Storytime, Read to Spider, and the Spooky Bones and Creepy Crawlies event where kids were able to explore real animal bones and skeletons and hold a variety of live large bugs! The South Shore Community Action Council joined us at the library for six sessions over six weeks for STEM playgroup.

Community events included a Halloween Folklore Presentation by Roxie Zwicker and a presentation by Tim Weisberg focusing on the Bridgewater Triangle and its Hauntings. The Norwell Ski Club, Norwell Historical Commission, Norwell Garden Club, Norwell School Committee, Norwell Commission on Disabilities, and the Cole School Girl Scout Troop all utilized the Meeting Room and the Local History Room.

The October Art Exhibit featured acrylic paintings by local artist Stephen Boczanowski.

Financial Report: At the end of October the remaining FY24 balance in personnel services was \$404,376.96 and the remaining balance in general expenses was \$175,360.22. The total cash receipts totaled \$616.42 and the total copier/printer receipts totaled \$190.00.

Friends: The Friends of NPL held a Fall Pop-Up Book Sale that also included a Halloween themed storytime, crafts, face painting, and several raffle items which was very well attended.

Library updates: A part time Library Associate position has been posted. The Cole School Kindergarten classes came in to visit and learn about the library for two hours of revolving activities on November 6.

Patron Satisfaction Survey: Only 18 responses were submitted for the survey, so after discussion it was decided that the library will post the survey again in the spring, and also send it out in a separate e-mail blast to try to get a larger selection of responses.

Teen Behavior Update: The disruptive behavior of some Middle School students has been slowly improving for the most part, although there have been continuing issues with certain groups who have received multiple warnings about their violations of the NPL Appropriate Use Policy.

NSTV Collaborator of the Year Award: Norwell Spotlight TV chose the Library as the recipient of the 2023 Collaborator of the Year Award, which they presented to Library Director Rachel Breen, Adult Services Librarian Zoe Rath, and Teen Librarian Brooke Vitagliano.

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm

Minutes recorded by Pam Achille.