

Approved minutes

BLAKE MEMORIAL LIBRARY TRUSTEES MEETING

6:30 PM, April 19, 2022

In the library basement

Trustees present at the library: Shirley Montagne, Rob Rinaldi,, Nick Kramer, Tania Aebi, Carl Demrow. On zoom: Dina Dubois. Staff: Jen Spanier, Director. On zoom: Kimberly Hotelling, Assistant Director. Not attending: Kathryn Price. Visitors: Ann Peck.

Shirley brought the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

Anne Peck started with a summary of her work on the garden/art tour. She has made great progress with 11 sites and one food vendor. Anne has been making site visits with those who are intending to be part of the tour. There are now locations in Corinth, Topsham, Newbury, and Bradford. The options for selling tickets will involve both sales at the library and online sales through Eventbrite. There was some discussion about setting up a PayPal account for folks to make donations. Kimberly will be doing the poster and getting it out before Memorial Day, and ads will be on the LRN and in the JO in June. Dina asked if the ticket was good for only one day- Anne said that the tickets would be for one or two days, depending on the purchaser's preference.

Dina asked about putting the meeting agenda on LRN and Jen said she'd be happy to do that when she puts the agenda on the website. Dina will post the agenda on the bulletin board at the Cookeville Post Office.

Rob moved to approve the minutes of the February 15 meeting, Nick seconded, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Shirley noted that the library will be getting a Square unit/account so that people can make a donation with a credit card at the library, and she recently got the required UEI from SAM.gov. Electricity is a bit higher than she was hoping, though the cost is lower than last year. Shirley said she thought we are in good shape for the YTD, including cash flow.

Jen has changed the vendor for the majority of our books from Amazon and the prices are better and some culls will bring a credit. Jen talked a bit about the collections survey that she did and the various interests in classical, history, and cooking books. Rob had an idea of doing a display of books banned in in other states. Dina asked if people were just taking out books form the new book display or if they were going in to the stacks to find what they are looking for. Jen said it is a mix and Tania agreed that there are browsers who will go through the stacks. Tania said she felt is was an even split - that she spends as much time returning books to the stacks as she does to putting new books back. The puzzle collection drive was a success and had to be ended due to space. Suzanne Brown is back for book discussion and story hour is going well. The Harry

Potter potluck movie night was a success and Kimberly held a weekend craft evening. There is a full complement of upcoming workshops and events as well as the summer reading program. Women's fellowship is back in person at the library and they have used the owl for those who cannot attend.

BML has been awarded another Vermont Humanities camp grant that will cover 2 weeks of camp. There is also a larger grant pending that is due to be announced in the next few days. Rob suggested the network switch replacement be paid for with the \$1,400 ARPA library money, but Jen noted that the state is encouraging using the money on EDI (equity, diversity, and inclusion) collections. Shirley noted that Topsham Telephone will keep our rate low until an audit at TT drives it up. Grants are available from USDA to offset monthly costs for internet. Another possibility for the money was stem kits for robotics. Katherine Lea's husband has a line on this.

We then moved on to a discussion about masks and Rob asked Jen, Kimberly, and Tania how they felt. Jen said she had mixed feelings. Kimberly said she was OK with making it optional as did Tania. Jen said she was not sure how Jane would feel about it since her husband was on chemo. Dina said she felt strongly that masks should be required. Tania made a motion to change the mask policy to masks are encouraged but not required. Rob seconded. The motion passed with Rob, Nick, Shirley, Tania, and Carl voting yes and Dina voting no.

Rob moved to accept the directors report and Shirley seconded. Report accepted.

Rob gave the buildings and grounds report and summarized the water issue in the basement. Nick moved to approve \$2,500 for the grading issue, Rob seconded. Passed unanimously. Rob moved to the exit signs which required a visit from a tech and some instructions on resetting. Rob also mentioned the battery for the flagpole light and that we would get the tent put back up some time in mid May.

Nick moved to adjourn and Shirley seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:55.

Respectfully submitted,
Carl Demrow, secretary