*Present:* Boyle, Bridge , Kvetcovsky, Lovely, Menard, Urban, B. Wilmot, N. Wilmot, Wood, Fafara--Library Director, Staff Present: Bernier, Churchill, lDiPadova

1. New Business: The Agenda was modified to begin with a patron set of concerns and the staff came to discuss the issues. A Trustee had been given a letter of concern that centered around the collection, primarily in the Children’s Room. The issues in the letter were discussed point by point. This resulted in a thorough discussion of weeding, rearranging and collection management. It was a good opportunity for Trustees to better understand professional library practices like: shelves should be 25-30% empty for purposes of growth and display. RFL has a high check-out rate which makes shelves appear emptier… Another topic was the presence of the cats and ideas for reducing the issue were discussed. The following action steps were agreed to:
   1. The Trustee who received the letter will contact the patron with our thanks for bringing forward the concerns, an explanation of some of the changes that had been observed and encouragement to make an appointment with the Children’s Librarian who can provide guidance on the changes to the collection.
   2. The website will be updated to make it easier to contact staff.
   3. Policies will be printed and placed in a notebook at the front desk to be easily accessible to patrons. Note: Policies are available on the website.
   4. Collection management to include weeding, categorizing and relocating of books, movies, etc. will be the topic of the next RFL Newport Times article.
   5. More signs will be placed to guide patrons to new locations, etc.
   6. Cat toys in the lobby area will be reduced, the efficacy of the air filtering system and cleaning days, plus “cat free” hours and notice to patrons with mobility issues that the cats can be locked away during their visit to the library will be publicized.
2. New Business: Genre-based reorganization of the Youth Collection. Kudos to the Youth Services Assistant--usage is up 63% since 2022 and 343% since 2019. Teens are more engaged in the library and with all staff and the behavioral issues are vastly reduced. The Library Director and Youth Services Assistant are in the process of changing the Youth Collection to be organized by genre: romance, sci-fi, fantasy, etc. This has been highly successful in other libraries and school settings. The Trustees were grateful to understand this new approach and its logic.

*The staff were dismissed with appreciation for their input. The Agenda was resumed.*

1. Secretary’s Report: Minutes of 6/26/23 (previously emailed) Approved as presented (Bridge/Wood) Unanimous.
2. Treasurer’s Report (previously emailed) The very large insurance premium was due to the fact that the Town “charges” the entire amount at the end of their fiscal year. The $10,000+ deficit month is attributable in large part to the reduced Town Appropriation when insurances, etc. are deducted. Lead up to Summer Reading and summer programming make it an expensive season.New grants from NHCF should arrive before Dec. 30th and balance out the deficit. The checkbook is in good shape.
3. LAC Reports *To be circulated after their meeting, next week.*
4. Librarian Reports (previously emailed)
   1. Narrative Report:
      1. Black mold has been discovered in the LAC studio area and will need to be remediated. This involves both removal and reconstruction. There is a high likelihood of mold appearing in the RFL where leaks occurred. Justine and Kate will seek a single source for removal and reconstruction.There was consensus that the LAC be asked to help in the cost of the mold remediation if possible.
      2. Cash Bar at the Hale Award: Before agreeing to the $500 fee, Justine will explore whether free wine at every table is an option. Trustees will need to vote before a cash bar can be arranged.
      3. Deb’s Retirement: Trustees are encouraged to contribute to a Tote Bag for Deb who has been a part time staff person for 10 years and is retiring 9/1.
      4. The IRS has sent a letter informing us that it will be 60 more days before the disposition of our 2020 return will be available.
   2. Statistics: This is a busy summer. Summer Reading is going very well. The computers are in high use and the chromebooks are being well-used by patrons who just need to browse.
5. Old Business
   1. Roof project; GDC has been on site, weather permitting. Temporary repairs have eliminated leaks in the recent storms. Significant damage due to age, materials and previous workmanship is being discovered and repaired. The project cannot be completed until after the tent is removed from the side lawn so mid-Sept seems reasonable.
   2. Library Festival: Charen reviewed a menu that had been emailed and Trustees are encouraged to Reply All with their contributions. Participation from former Trustees will be solicited. Plans will be finalized at the August meeting.**August 4th is the last day the Friends are accepting books for this year’s festival.**
6. New Business (See above as well)
   1. Gun safety program: Rody’s Gun Shop is willing to present a program that focuses on how to cope with inherited guns, etc. There was consensus that unloaded firearms may be brought to RFL for this program. He would also like to do an orienteering program at RFL.
   2. Paul Brown is Interim Town Manager. A Search Committee is in place with PJ Lovely representing Department Heads.
7. Adjournment at 9:22 (N. Wilmot/Kvetcovsky) Unanimous.

Next Regular Meeting: August 21st 7:30pm **at the library** On the Calendar: Library Festival planning & Hale Award planning

Respectfully Submitted,

Charen L. Urban, Secretary