

Richards Free Library Board of Trustees
Meeting of Monday, March 25, 2024 7:30 p.m. **on zoom**

Present: Boyle, Bridge, Lovely, Kvetcovsky, Menard, Thurlow, Urban, Director Fafara
Excused: Hubert, Wood

Secretary's Report: Feb 2-26 meeting (previously emailed). Motion to accept.
(Thurlow/Kvetcovsky) Unanimous.

Treasurer's report: (previously emailed) Income from endowments came in as expected. Be mindful that benefits are paid in June. NY Times did not increase prices.

Director Reports: (previously emailed)

Staffing: One page leaving & position is posted, one new page is on boarding. Karen C. is leaving at the end of April, one applicant so far but not qualified. We require a high school diploma or equivalent.

No building new issues. John of GDC will come in the spring to attend to a couple of issues and the cupola.

CSB Foundation grant application has been submitted to redo the themed backpack sets, ie. doctor visit, nature, ... They are early learning backpacks.

New town manager, Kyle Harris, is a library enthusiast. Elaine Frank was featured on the front page in the Valley News in the Life to Remember story.

Bookport was very successful and authors wish to return; additional ones have inquired about next year.

New door counter is installed.

Teen behaviors have improved with clear and consistently enforced expectations. 43 teens have set down for sessions about expectations and they have been recorded so no one can say "I didn't know." VR gaming had 20 attendees.

Cats appear to be less of an issue. There are service and therapy dogs who come in regularly. RFL will host a meet and greet with the NPD comfort puppy.

Old Business:

Joint LAC-RFL Committee to deal proactively with building issues. Meet quarterly and additionally as necessary. Matt, Barb and Calista volunteered to represent RFL. A time will be decided.

Budget Update: According to a selectman, we were cut by \$6000 so RFL will get 2% plus \$4000, instead of \$10,000. Justine will propose cuts accordingly. Deliberative Session is April 2 6 PM at NMHS. Town Meeting is May 14 with voting 8-7. Charen will file for Library Trustee, the filing period begins March 27.

National Library Week: April 8-12. Many activities and a Bingo Card activity to explore the many services and staff of the library. Blackout Winners may attend after hours Read-in on the last Saturday.

Tech Plan: (previously emailed) The servers need to be updated. We have had a server rebuilt by Paul after it failed. We can get an interim fix for approx. \$1100. There is an NHCF library tech grant that could do a thorough replacement in the future. Wifi additional access points are needed because of dead spots. There are currently 7 patron computers, 8 admin/staff computers. It would be nice to have 2 more for adult patrons. TVs & barcode scanners are replaced as needed. Cameras could be added as an option if needed.

2nd floor wiring will be moved to the Facilities Plan.

Other Business:

Clean up day is the last Sunday of April--28th.

This year Justine requests a 4th week of vacation instead of 2% raise, next year there would be a 5th week added. The proposal is understood, tabled and will be revisited in April.

Hale Award to Monica Wood is Sept. 7th, the weekend after Labor Day. The Opera House is reserved, as is the Old Courthouse.

Adjourned 8:50. Next meeting April 22, 7:30 in person at the Library.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charen Urban

Charen Urban, Secretary