

Baxter Memorial Library Trustee Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2024 at 6pm

In attendance: Emma Basham, Kit Hood, Laura De Capua (via Zoom), Karen Rodis (via Zoom) Finnie Trimpi, Judy Moore, Will Godfrey, Rebekah Bakos-Kallgren, and Shana Hickman

1. Approved minutes from January 2024 meeting
2. Reviewed and signed warrants
3. Reviewed financials, including the budget for FY25
 - a. The financials look good YTD.
 - b. Our fundraising revenue is greater than expected, in part due to the strong response to our year-end appeal letter.
4. Librarian's Report
 - a. Visits and other stats for January were up from January last year.
 - b. The Cookbook Club is meeting monthly on a Saturday and participants are enjoying it.
 - c. The writing workshop has been happening for quite a few months. However, Shana suggested that it become more periodic in the future.
 - d. Shana will begin a new workshop on March 2 that will meet from 2-5pm on living with a more positive outlook. It will cover many topics, including reducing stress, being more mindful, etc.
5. Public Comment: none
6. New Business:
 - a. Trustees:
 - i. Sandy submitted her letter of resignation and now the Select Board will make an appointment for Sandy's vacancy. We nominate Rebekah Bakos-Kallgren to take Sandy's place until that term is finished.
 - ii. A discussion about expanding the board of trustees from 5 people to "5-7" people ensued. To do so we may need to have the town vote on this change. If we don't want to wait until next year's town meeting for this change, we could have some folks work on committees without having to become trustees. However, they would need to conduct committee business during our trustee meetings each month.
 - b. Shana is compiling a notebook of resources for those experiencing homelessness. Several people have come to the library with this issue. Trustees suggested several people who might be helpful for her to meet. Finnie said that her mother who just retired from The Haven could assist as well.
 - c. Next fundraisers:

- i. Game Night ...Karen and Laura will work on a potential game night in April. Thoughts were that we might want to have it at a different location from the library. Babe's Bar was mentioned.
 - ii. The Plant Book and Bake Sale .. It will be held in late May or early June. Perhaps ask local greenhouses to donate some potted plants, since we cannot dig others' gardens due to jumping worms.
 - iii. Cabin Fever dinners... a potential fundraiser. Karen and Kit will talk to members of the Sharon Connects group about this idea.
- d. Upcoming grant application planning:
 - i. Current grant dollars will be mostly used for the summer programs. There was discussion about offering more adult programs.
 - ii. A Capital Grant will be offered in the fall that we may seek. Emma suggested that we begin to determine our capital needs in the next few months so that we are prepared when the grant proposal is due. We discussed the possibility of raising the building to offer a reading room in the basement. Also investigating opening up the attic for more space. A need for a better surface for the parking area and better lighting out back was discussed. Shana will discuss the need for outdoor lighting with Nicola at the town office since it is a safety hazard.

The meeting concluded at 7:30.

Next meeting will be held at the library on Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 6pm.

Kit Hood for Karen Rodis