

Baxter Memorial Library Trustee Meeting Minutes

Mar 21, 2024

6pm

In attendance: Finnie Trimpi, Rebekah Bakos-Kallgren, Will Godfrey, Judy Moore, Shana Hickman, Karen Rodis, Laura DeCapua (Zoom)

1. Amended and approved minutes from Feb 2024 meeting
2. Reviewed and signed warrants
3. Review financials
 - a. The \$5000 anonymous grant that arrived in February is not listed in the spreadsheet from the town. Shana will inquire with Lucy.
 - b. Fundraising expenses are up, but we are overall bringing in more donations this year
 - c. Money is available for programming through June
4. Librarian's report and updates
 - a. Overall library use is up
 - b. First Living Joyfully workshop had 10 participants – great news
 - c. Library Game Day is very popular– had 16 kids two weeks ago
 - d. April 6: Next Living Joyfully workshop
 - e. April 23: Community Poetry Night. Lots of fun activities planned
 - f. Grants:
 - i. Received \$5K anonymous grant
 - ii. Shana will apply for a scholarship to attend Association for Small and Rural Libraries conference in Sept.
 - iii. Winnie Bell Learning Fund Grant is coming up. It will be competitive this year. We will propose running a “1000 Books Before Kindergarten” program for our application.
 - g. April 8 eclipse: we have 425 eclipse glasses and activity packets for kids available
 - h. Shana will attend the 5 College Book Sale to refresh our adult nonfiction collection; we will ask volunteers to fill in on April 11 from 2-6pm.
 - i. Vermont Library Association conference is on May 20. Shana will attend, having received their recognition award. Volunteers will staff the library from 2-6pm.
 - j. Human services resources binder is coming together. We now have more information from the Haven and Waypoint to give to our patrons in need.

- k. We are seeking phone chargers to have on hand for patrons needing to charge their devices.
- l. Looking to sell our old computers at Plant, Book and Bake Sale.
- m. Library will host the town map and sign up sheet for Green-Up Day
- n. We are looking to host a Basics 101 class series—in all different areas.
- o. Library trustee spring training is Thursday, April 4, 11am-12pm with VT Dept. Libraries

5. Public Comment—none

6. Old Business:

- a. Building expansion as re: the capital grant from Vermont Department of Libraries:
 - i. Judy Moore met with Ira Clark, architect, and Jackson Evans from Preservation Society of Vermont. Jackson asked trustees to brainstorm why we want to renovate. Trustees concur that we don't have the space to effectively provide the programs that we offer. There is no privacy or confidentiality for people who use the library for telehealth visits with their doctors, or who come to seek help with taxes and other personal issues, or who are working with the Sharon Health Initiative. We are starting to see overcrowding and don't have enough room to host the numbers of people who come to the programs we offer.
 - ii. Jackson stated that developing a second floor is not feasible since our ceiling is historic. Adding an addition out to the back, or doing an ell shape, is possible.
 - iii. ADA compliance—we are almost there. The back door and restroom need a little adjustment.
 - iv. Ira recommends going straight out the back for the easiest renovation. The well is in that area, however, so that problem would need to be solved. Could the library be on town water, or could the library build a new well on the public school grounds? The well also seems to be connected to the building on the other side of Seven Stars, and possibly Seven Stars as well, so this is another complexity.
 - v. Funding: the capital grant from the Vermont Department of Libraries. There is also Downer grant available for feasibility. The library will need to stack grants.
 - vi. Next steps: Judy will find out more about our well, inquire about collaborating with the school at a school board meeting, designing a survey for the community to assess needs and requests, and try to get more of a ballpark figure for our expenses.
 - vii. Trustees will work on a community survey of library needs at our next meeting

7. New Business:

- a. Officer elections
 - i. Chair: Emma Basham
 - ii. Secretary: Karen Rodis
 - iii. Treasurer: Rebekah Bakos-Kallgren

- iv. Volunteer Coordinator: Finnie Trimpi
- b. Set date for Plant, Book, and Bake Sale: Saturday May 18, 9am-2pm
- c. Date for Trivia/Game night: TBD
- d. Summer fundraising: garden tours will be once a month. Emma will talk to gardeners who are interested in opening up their gardens to visitors.
- e. Summer programming:
 - i. Four summer art classes run by Artistree
 - ii. Storytime with Jools on July 13
 - iii. Children's Summer Reading Program

Meeting ended at 8pm

Next meeting: Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 6pm

Respectfully submitted by Karen Rodis, Secretary