

Meeting of the Westhampton Public Library Board of Trustees

In Person at the Westhampton Public Library and on Zoom

6:00 PM

May 10, 2022

Attendance: Mikki Nevins, Anne Marie O'Reilly, Caralyn Whipple, Brian Mulvehill, Angela Griefen (on Zoom)

Absent: Carol McMurrich

Call to order: 6:13

Minutes from the last meeting: Not read

Treasurer's Report: Library Building Account \$3,594.48; State Aid \$2,829.76 (waiting for confirmation from town that 2nd check was received); Deferred Town Monies \$20,972.96; Library Gift Account \$22,475.57

Director's Report: As written. There were several questions from patrons. A resident has inquired about having his memorial on library grounds. The trustees will consider this request at future meetings, following town elections with a new board.

The current board raised some points to keep in mind in future discussions. Brian Mulvehill raised the point that we would be setting precedent. There was also a discussion about whether this request bears any connection to honorary plaques currently in the library and on the library grounds.

There is a plaque and an evergreen tree dedicated to Ralph and Thecia Hancewicz in the yard and a coat rack dedicated to Hilary Nolan in the Children's Room. The Hancewicz plaque was installed by the Friends of the Library in recognition of the central role that Ralph and Thecia play in the library building project. Hilary's plaque was installed by the trustees in recognition of her extraordinary dedication as a Youth Librarian. The current board did not see a connection between these honorary gestures and requests for patron memorials on the library grounds.

A Hampshire Regional student asked to use the Library to collect cash for an animal shelter fundraiser as part of a civics action project. After discussing the possible problems connected with collecting money for charitable causes, the trustees agreed that the library could act as a location for collecting pet supplies for a limited period of time but would not collect money.

Connor Alexander, an Eagle Scout candidate, has approached the library about completing a project that would benefit the library. This will be our second Eagle Scout project in two years. There was a discussion about being mindful of the

ongoing maintenance of any structures that created for the library. One suggested project that the trustees think will be useful and easily maintained is a well-constructed fire pit to replace the current fire pit. Meaghan will respond to Connor and share the trustees' expectation that he confer with the Fire Department and Phil Dowling about the safety and suitability of his plan.

The trustees approved use of the Gift Account to buy light refreshments for the 5 Year Strategic Plan meetings. The trustees also approved the purchase of an accessory punch for the newly purchased Buttonmaker.

Friends of the WPL: Summer reading support was discussed (gifts, prizes, etc.) There was also a discussion of ideas for spending \$3,000 grant from Association of Rural and Small Libraries, which will support Garden Days at the Library. The annual Membership Drive has begun with a refocused appeal to support our "Trybrary". The Friends continue to work on revising their by-laws.

Old Business: Meaghan reviewed her plan for the first meeting of the 5 Year Strategic Plan Committee on May 11th. She has created a slide show to provide an overview of the library, its history and the scope of the committee's work. She has created a Community Survey. The survey will be available on-line. Hard copies will be available at the library and at several community locations. The Strategic Plan Committee will review results at their 2nd and final meeting on June 8th.

New Business: The Board discussed options for filling the 2 vacant seats on the board of trustees. Current board members Brian Mulvehill and Mikki Nevins are not running for election. One town resident has voiced interest in joining the board. After contacting the Town Clerk for information about the process, the interested person has been advised to run for election as a Write-In candidate in the upcoming town election.

Date of next meeting: 6/14

Adjourn: 7:10