

Meeting of the Westhampton Public Library Board of Trustees

In Person at the Westhampton Public Library and on Zoom

6:00 PM

In attendance: Mikki Nevins, Anne Marie O'Reilly, Caralyn Whipple, Carol McMurrich, (taking minutes). Late: Angela Griefen
Absent: Brian Mulvehill

Call to order: 7:04

Minutes from the last meeting: unanimously accepted by those who were present at the March meeting by roll call.

Treasurer's Report: Library Building Account \$3594.48; State Aid: second round hasn't come yet so it is still at \$2829.78; Deferred Town Monies \$36,838.51; Library Gift Account \$22,656.46.

Director's Report: As written. Regarding Lawn care: we have grant money from the ASRL grant to use Steve for some other things – so we could potentially take him off that back lawn and see what happens, while letting him continue to maintain the front as he always had. Steve already does not treat the bottom section where the fire pit is. O'Reilly comments that by letting the back lawn lie untreated, we communicate to the folks in town who are concerned about chemical use that we are taking their concerns seriously and experimenting to find the best course of action

Friends of the WPL: Looking for a new fundraising category. Previously it was "fill the shelves" and our shelves are full! Would like to diversity the Try-Brary. Has learned from other directors what kinds of things have been popular at other libraries, for example a button maker, a portable image scanner for old photographs or anything you might want to do at home; a laminator, a paper shredder... tech and DIY items. This fundraising appeal will get more things for the Try-brary that people will actually use.

Friends are also trying to re-write their bylaws.

O'Reilly asks if the Friends board is stable: Anita Goddard has stepped into vice president position, taking over from Renee Schultz, and Becky Alexander will train Judy Wayne as the new treasurer and then step down. Schwelm thinks they are all set for now and will amend that statement if necessary.

Old Business:

Masking Requirements: Schools have dropped masking requirements here in Westhampton and also in Easthampton. Right now Westhampton's town building masking mandate is effective through April 1. Schwelm feels it may not be feasible to continue to have the mask requirement if the town doesn't have to.

Nevins: we can still request that people wear masks without mandating it.

McMurrich: could have specific times/shifts/days where masks are required.

Schwelm thinks if town lifts the mask mandate we should not mandate. Does think depending on Emily/young family comfort level they could enforce masking at young children's programs. Schwelm would allow small groups such as scrabble or knitting to decide amongst themselves. Schwelm will suggest on April 1 that masks are encouraged but not required except for storytime.

Plans for Eagle Scout Project Funds:

Have mentioned to some other teens that we have some extra money. Would like to let the thought sit for a while and see what they come up with. Schwelm was thinking about getting an Apple desktop computer for the teen room. Most teens are more accustomed to Macs. Then we don't have to spend that money later on when we do computer upgrades. There are fun colors and we could add some interesting software or programs (kids could give input for this)

5 Year Strategic Plan:

O'Reilly liked the plan from Groton Public Library and Schwelm noticed that our past survey was very similar—Blair may have based it on this survey. There are a series of questions with checklists, and that's very quick. Towards the end there are a few write in questions which allows people to be more thoughtful/creative. We could probably use many of the same questions. Perhaps we would use less of the "rate these things on a scale of importance" and perhaps just tick off what is important to you?

Would love to have an option where we list core values of a library: such as, access to information for all, our green building, school readiness...etc. We say, our library tries to uphold these values and which of these are important to you? It both raises awareness about our values and also ascertains what is important to our patrons. Could be ranking them in order of importance?

O'Reilly: what will the role be of the committee we are trying to form? The committee signs on to attend 3 meetings and at the meetings basically the only advice Schwelm has seen in the literature and on the MLS website is to start with a SOAR exercise (or a SWOT) at the first meeting. Second meeting come up with a shared vision for the next 5 years "community vision statemen". Third meeting is survey results and wrap up. Meetings would be 1.5-2 hours long. Schwelm will get the group finalized and then will ask them.

Suggested group members:

Colleen Basil from COA

Anita Goddard from Friends

Deb Smith as a community member

Catherine Adybell – have two young kids and use library a lot

Emily Wayne as staff member

Ruth Tracy

Margaret Butterfield as a volunteer

Mike Stacy

Andrew Coates (young kids, stay at home dad)

Jackie Brodeur

Need a teen or someone engaged in the school system.
Also need a participant from the trustees

Total will be 13 people if nobody bows out—and when meetings are posted people may back out.

Whipple: is anyone on the committee who participated last time to provide overlap from one committee to the next?

Old committee was very much built up of people who have spent a good deal of time serving the library as friends, trustees etc.

New committee provides more fresh eyes and allows people to be of service without a huge commitment. Allows voices to be heard without people feeling as if they need to defer.

At next meeting trustees will determine who will serve from the trustees so that we can get survey out in April and committee will meet starting in May.

Schwelm will start working on a draft survey in the meantime.

New Business:

Collection Development Policy:

Schwelm thinks/hopes that we will not see the types of challenges to our collection that have been happening in other parts of the country/state that are more conservative. There have been challenges to LGBTQIA materials, Holocaust-denial related challenges, challenges to books that cast police in a negative light (BLM books). This is what is happening in our country – and so this might be a good time to review our CDP because it is happening so frequently.

Current statement does have closing statement that tries to cover

McMurrich suggests an opening statement that is very clear and explicit that we are seeking to create an intentional collection that has diverse viewpoints, backgrounds, experiences, etc.

Schwelm will use her course for ideas to create a DEI statement either to lead the policy or embed in the bullet list of collection development factors.

Changing Meeting Date: Trustees who are present agree to the second Tuesday of the month. Determining when this new schedule begins will depend on Mulvehill's availability. Time will remain at 6:00 PM.

Whipple question: will Zoom meetings remain an option when mask mandate is lifted?

Schwelm says yes, we will keep the option open. It also facilitates the public coming.

Date for next meeting: TBD

Ajourn: 7:30 PM

