

Meeting of the Westhampton Public Library Board of Trustees
May 13, 2021 at 7 p.m. via Zoom

In attendance: Meaghan Schwelm, Anne Marie O'Reilly, Celeste Whiting, Lynn Cooper, Mikki Nevins. Absent: Brian Mulvehill, Carol McMurrich. Also in attendance for new business was Ella Cleary.

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

New Business:

Sixth grader Ella Cleary came to the meeting to discuss an idea she has for her Eagle Scout Project. She will have the distinction of being the first female Eagle Scout after joining the local Westhampton Boy Scout troop a year or so ago. She'd like to make outdoor benches for the library. Meaghan voiced some concerns about whether 10-20 benches would create a challenge for Steve Holt Lawn Maintenance when they mow. Ella mentioned that the benches (which will each seat 2-3 adults) could be stored away if we don't want them all outside at the same time, or she could make fewer benches. Meaghan suggested we look into how much storage space we have in the basement. Celeste mentioned that the benches would be a great addition for when we get back to having outdoor concerts and events, so people don't have to drag lawn chairs and blankets from home. The Board decided that since Ella doesn't have to start her project till early fall, we have some time to get some more information from her and make a final decision but we all thought she should move forward with her plan. Lynn mentioned that The Daily Hampshire Gazette should be made aware of Ella's project too.

Minutes from the April 8, 2021 meeting: Approved as written by a 4-0 vote.

Treasurer's Report: Account Balances

Library Building: \$3,594.48

State Aid: \$2,041.17

Deferred Town Monies: \$18,073.32

Gift Account: \$21,540.08

Director's Report:

Circulation statistics are still down slightly but Meaghan is confident they will improve as the pandemic restrictions lessen. In regard to the mask mandate & social distancing changes announced by the President this afternoon, Meaghan will be meeting with the BOH to discuss what changes can be made at the library. She will also talk to Emily and the volunteers to make sure they're comfortable with any changes.

The library budget proposal passed without discussion at the Town Meeting on May 8th.

Meaghan has arranged for an outdoor acrobatic program for June 18th. No rain date but she will discuss with the BOH the limit on the number of people should it have to be indoors or perhaps using the Town Hall which is a bigger space than the library Community Room. The cost for the program is \$600 and there are two grants to cover that.

There was discussion about how to handle library coverage so that Meaghan could take some much-earned vacation time. In the past, the Youth Librarian covered any hours when the Director was away. Meaghan will check with Emily Wayne to see if she's interested in that and of course, she'd be paid accordingly. We discussed upping volunteer hours and perhaps paying them as well but no decision was made about that. The Board agreed that it would also be appropriate to reduce curbside pickup hours if necessary.

Friend's Report: No report this month.

Old Business:

Capital Planning Committee update: Mikki spoke last month with the chair of this committee and they were receptive to learning about improvements needed at the library. We haven't heard back from the Committee but Celeste suggested we make our request for funds official by sending a letter.

Community Art Project Proposal update (also part of the Director's Report):

Robbie Armenti will be the person in charge of the Westhampton Connect Community Weaving Project. The weaving structure will measure 5x6 feet and will be light enough that Robbie will be able to store it in the basement at night and bring it out again the next morning for the 3 days that it will up, August 13, 14 & 15.

Goals and Timeline for Director's Formal Evaluation: Due in August and it will be on the agenda again next month to discuss.

New Business:

HRHS Request to use library grounds: Meaghan received an email from the Principal asking if the Board would approve the senior class having a bonfire on the night of June 1st, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. The plan has already been approved by the Fire Department, Selectboard and the BOH. There would also be music. Brief discussion that the senior class really needed something special after their pandemic year. Motion made & seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Request from community groups to meet inside the library space: Three groups who have met inside the library in the past are requesting to be able to do that again ~ Scrabble, Knitting and Coffee & Chat. Meaghan felt that it would be easy enough to have the Knitting group and Coffee & Chat remain socially distant indoors but harder to play Scrabble. She's going to discuss with the BOH.

Goodbyes:

This was the last meeting for Celeste and Lynn. Thank you both for your dedicated service! We will miss you.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is June 10, 2021 at 7 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mikki Nevins, Recording Secretary