



Weare Public Library
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Board of Trustees

Mark Carey, Chairman
Josh Hilliard, Treasurer
Brenda Cannon, Secretary
Heleen Kurk, Alternate
Diann Couture-Smith, Alternate
Daniel Bretzius, Alternate
Clay Kriese, Director

-- Approved Minutes --

Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting

Thursday July 1, 2021

Present: Trustees: Chairman Mark Carey, Treasurer Josh Hilliard, Secretary Brenda Cannon, Director Clay Kriese, Alternates: Heleen Kurk, Diann Couture-Smith and Dan Bretzius

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm as per RSA 91-A: 1-a.

Acceptance of Minutes:

The meeting minutes from June 3, 2021 were reviewed. Josh Hilliard moved to accept the minutes for the June meeting, Diann Couture-Smith seconded the motion. All present were in favor and the meeting minutes were accepted.

Public Comments: There were no public comments. The board progressed directly to public session.

Public Session to accept funds:

A public hearing came to order at 7:10 pm, per RSA 202-A 4c. The hearing was held to accept funds from income generating equipment, donations and other income to be placed in the appropriate funds (\$155.00). The library Director provided this information in the June 2021 Report to Trustees. Josh Hilliard moved to accept the funds. Mark Carey seconded the motion. All present were in favor. The public session ended at 7:11 PM.

Director's Report:

Director Kriese presented data of the past month's operations, circulation activity and staff development. Statistically, we've almost completely bounced back from the covid era. Overall, we're only 6% lower than June of 2019 and a 34% better than last month.

Compared to 2019, Adult Fiction is only 7 circs lower. Graphic Novels continue their sharp incline. "Early Readers" (which is a combination of Easy, Easy Readers, and Board Books) are big winners. Looking at other sub-stats (not detailed above), our Juvenile Fiction Novels have doubled over last month.

Audio book CDs are low, but this could be attributed to a shift towards downloadables. DVDs haven't fully recovered either. Movie studios are more frequently releasing their features to streaming services well before they go to DVD. Is that to blame?

I am very pleased with the turnout for our first four Summer Reading events. Let's hope the momentum continues. While I don't have the individual stats for the events in June 2019, the total attendance for that month was 194. We have about 20 events scheduled for July, so we're looking forward to a busy month. Special thank you to the Friends of the Library for funding the supplies and prizes.

The biggest news for this month is the hiring of Corey Sisson as Children's Assistant Librarian. She started on June 19, and is forming a rapport with staff, patrons, and especially with children. She usually works 10:00 to 2:30 on Mondays and Wednesdays, so stop by sometime to say, "Hi."

We will soon receive covid-related federal grant funding for \$1,988. I have consulted with our staff, other directors, and the state library. To meet our needs, and yet conform to the stipulations of the grant requirements, we have decided to spend the funds on a collection of about 50 circulating STEM-based educational games and kits. We are planning on revealing these to the public with a "Science Fair that you can take home" in September. Several of the games will also be featured during weekly "Game Night" events that will begin in August.

Chairman Mark Carey moved to accept the director's report. Heleen Kurk seconded the motion. All present were in favor.

Old Business:

- 1) Paige room blinds. This idea will remain on the agenda until 4th quarter of this year.
- 2) Sawyer room windows. H. Kurk met with the Trustees of the Trust Fund to determine if this is a project they would support, this group suggested discussing with the Selectmen first and if the response was not favorable returning to them for possible support. Following the meeting the Trustees looked at the windows in question and decided it was not an urgent need at this time. The windows will continue to be monitored and possibly fixed if the alignment issues worsen.
- 3) The library's continued involvement in the publication "Weare In The World" was discussed. J. Hilliard presented the updated document to the Town Administrator who forwarded to the town attorney. The attorney's review remains pending.
- 4) TD Bank – J. Hilliard met with bank officials, the options for providing the Director with a credit card are as follows: provide card w/daily or monthly amount.
- 5) Increase library engagement – D. Couture-Smith came to the meeting with several ideas.
 - a) Job hunting, resume writing, local house hunting, do it yourself repairs, small business financial issues, computer 101, elder abuse and scams
 - b) The IFA may provide seminars on health savings accounts, information on IRA's and information on saving for folks new to the work force.
 - c) The director also had a list of programs that patrons might find enjoyable. The Director will put together a list of all possible programs and send to the Trustees for review; the 3 items receiving the most votes will be pursued (includes having patrons vote online).

New Business:

- 1) Library Foundation (LF) – The LF met recently. This group would like the Trustees to present a plan for moving forward with expansion by October of this year. The Trustees felt this request was not reasonable and have asked the LF members to attend next month's Trustee meeting to further discuss.

2) Friends Book Sale, August 14 – Library staff will work their regular scheduled hours at the library and can help the Friends after their scheduled hours.

Chairman Mark Carey made a motion to adjourn; Josh Hilliard seconded the motion. All present were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Next meeting is Thursday August 5, 2021 at 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Cannon, Recording Secretary