



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 September 2, 2021

Present: Trustees: Chairman Mark Carey, Treasurer Josh Hilliard, Secretary Brenda Cannon, Director Clay Kriese, Alternate(s): Heleen Kurk, Dan Bretzius, Diann Couture-Smith
Guests: Thelma Tracy

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm as per RSA 91-A: 1-a.

Acceptance of Minutes:

The meeting minutes from August 5, 2021 were reviewed. A few minor typos were noted and corrected. Josh Hilliard moved to accept the minutes corrected minutes for the August meeting, Mark Carey seconded the motion. All present were in favor and the meeting minutes were accepted.

Public Comments: A public hearing began at 7:01 PM. Thelma Tracy, representing the library staff, wanted to discuss the libraries mask policy. Mrs. Tracy explained that she had discussed her concerns regarding masks now that the children were returning to school with the director. Mrs. Tracy and the library staff wished to return to a mask mandate and the director was opposed to this action at this time. Mrs. Tracy explained that since the library does not currently have a mask mandate all activities with the children's groups are now being done outside. Mrs. Tracy also noted that the surrounding towns have returned to a mask mandate.

The director's position is that he does not want to discourage patrons from coming to the library. The director stated that 42% of New Hampshire (NH) libraries now have a mask mandate. He was concerned about instituting a policy that might change from month to month. The director did note that the town does not have a mask mandate and in fact the Selectmen only social distance at their meeting.

Some points discussed were that wearing masks was a minor inconvenience, that it was better to be more cautious with COVID cases increasing in NH. The director did point out that staff currently were not adhering to any mask policy with any regularity and stated that if the library was to put a new policy in place all staff must participate while at work or lunch in the library. Following discussion, the Trustees decided it was in the best interest of the library to return to a mask mandate policy. The Director will update the libraries COVID policy on masks and have the new mandate in place by September 8, 2021.

Non-Public Session:

A motion to enter Nonpublic Session was made by Chairman Mark Carey and seconded by Brenda Cannon at 7:39pm. Pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A: 3, II a roll call vote was taken, Chairman Mark Carey'-yes, Secretary Brenda Cannon-yes, Treasurer Josh Hilliard-yes. Passed 3-0-0.

Under RSA 91-A: 3, III minutes of the nonpublic session were kept.

A motion to leave the nonpublic session and return to public session was made by Chairman Mark Carey, seconded by Secretary Brenda Cannon. A roll call vote was taken, Chairman Mark Carey-yes, Secretary Brenda Cannon-yes, Treasurer Josh Hilliard-yes. Passed 3-0-0. The public session reconvened at 8:30pm.

Public Session to accept funds:

A public hearing came to order at 8:31pm, 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 (\$37.99). The library Director provided this information in the August 2021 Report to Trustees. Mark Carey moved to accept the funds. Brenda Cannon seconded the motion. All present were in favor. The public session ended at 8:32pm.

Director's Report:

Director Kriese presented data of the past month's operations, circulation activity and staff development. Overall, August circulation is lower than July. There has been an increase in adult fiction and graphic novels.

It's been a quiet month, but we're gearing up for Fall Programming – including more game nights, Storytime's, knitting groups, community coffee, author talks, financial and technical seminars. STEMtember has begun. Much thanks to the staff for their hard work getting all of our new kits and games cataloged. A few days in, and we've already seen 10 checked-out. The staff and I are now brainstorming on what to ask for the competitive round 2 of the ARPA Grant.

Much thanks to the Friends of the Library for a successful Summer Booksale!

The Children's Christmas Party is a go. On December 5, we're helping out with the crafts and entertainment.

We're also assisting with the Pine Tree Riot 250th Anniversary Event on April 9, 2022.

For his Eagle Scout project, Benjamin Hallee will soon install a Bee Kiosk on our grounds.

In addition, for the exterior, we've purchased a garbage storage container, which should arrive in a week or so.

Treasurer Josh Hilliard moved to accept the director's report. Chairman Mark Carey 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 will continue to be monitored and possibly fixed if the alignment issues worsen.

- 3) The town attorney did review the document submitted by the Trustees regarding removing the Trustees from any further involvement with the publication “Weare In The World”. The town attorney was fine with the document presented. Josh Hilliard, Treasurer, will draft a letter to the group publishing the paper explaining the Trustees position.
- 4) The Sawyer Room has been cleaned and can be utilized for community member needing a meeting place.

New Business:

- 1) Terry Knowles will meet with the Trustees on September 16, 2021 at 7PM to discuss how this group should proceed with funds held by the library and Library Foundation for building expansion.

Chairman Mark Carey made a motion to adjourn; Treasurer Josh Hilliard seconded the motion. All present were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:43pm.

Next meeting is Thursday October 7, 2021 at 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Cannon, Recording Secretary