

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES-LIBRARY TRUSTEES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2021, 5:00-5:45 p.m.
In person at the Willey Building Meeting Room or via Zoom

Those attending in person: Mike Hogan, Fred Ducharme, Fred Ducharme, Kurt Steinert, Angle Ogle, Beth Wade, Kathleen Hoyne, Jeanne McCallum, Frank Kampf; via zoom: Karlyn Schmidt

1. Call Meeting to Order – The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.
2. Approve Agenda – Fred approved with second by Ian.
3. Discussion with Library Trustees and Librarian – Kurt spoke lot of common interest to serve the community. Where do we see how the library fits in the Town? What can we do to facilitate the fund from ARPA. Utilizing communal space, great resource of the Willey Building, and the budget process. ARPA funding – library for a part of the fund. Library has reached out to the younger children and family. There is a great desire for more programs. Right now it is limited to volunteers and Kathleen.

She has some info on children services and there is a need for a children's librarian. She took a look at state statistics. The number of hours on average 94 hours per week. Cabot has 35 hours. The median is 51; Jacquith 49 hours; library director and youth; Craftsbury children and another librarian 68 hours; Greensboro – 54 hours; Danville 43 hours; Cabot 35 hours; what we are proposing is to have a library director and youth librarian and we could offer so much more. Mike: Jacquith has 49 hours, are they all paid? Yes they are. Beth mentioned that we want to try to get us up to standard – 3-year period of time. If we hire someone for next 3 years for 15 hours, \$72,000 for 3 years and then the idea to let the Town decided to take on. We would like to offer a regular story hour program after school hours.

Kurt – Beth has done some fund raising grant from Children's Trust Foundation – federal but administered by non-profit organization. There is still a lot of unmet need for children. Angela – collaborated a massive grant of \$54,500 and hire a coordinator for 8 weeks between three libraries: Cutler (Plainfield), Jacquith (Marshfield), and Cabot. Libraries can go for grants. Staff time is a municipal issue. This past grant shows what we can do.

Mike – reference for the ARPA money – SB does appropriate this monies and the categories are very narrow and vague. We have another amount that has come and will be coming in next year plus the county money of around \$250,000. Duration – by 2024 – has to be spent by 2026. Wastewater and Broadband has some needs already, and if the municipality has lost particular revenue, we may be able to regain some of this back. Kathleen wanted to know about if that this would be appropriate. Once we get the Town interest. Kurt-would like to be part of the process.

Angela – what would the Board like to see how this could benefit the Town. Mike – gives a better picture of what other libraries are doing. Kathleen it became clear with COVID how hard it was on kids. Try to re-engage children. Fred – Community support for the programs. Mike perhaps we could do a trial for a 3-year program, and the Town to approve the amounts each year. We have a fiscal responsibility to the Town to spend least money we can, however, emergencies come up. Budget can be contentious and it is not personal. ARPA money is SB responsibility. We could send a certain amount of money to everyone in Town if we wanted to. We have to put money to the Wastewater.

Kurt then it would be beneficial to put together a little bit more information. Beth – was starting on a large range plan at the beginning of the pandemic. Kurt we do need community engagement. We focused on small children, but looking at the broader picture. Angela – the library is the great equalizer in the Town. The library touches everybody. If Kathleen and the Library have a children library – it also serves the adult and it frees up the time for Kathleen, what can she do for adults so all can benefit. Mike – how many people are going in the library. Kathleen – around 500-600 users. Angela – she would also have more time for outreach with more members. Kathleen asked for us to look at the website. Kathleen we also have a sample of a sign at the rec field. The SB thought it was fine.

Kurt wanted to know if the SB had a list. Best broadband is here. Would like to be open more. Possible to be in here when it is cold. Can the WB be utilized more? Programming space. Feel like stepchildren. Give an example: Could we use the third floor for children hours. Group of people how it is utilized. WB committee – engage with the committee. Is there openness. Fred – if we open up more - who is going to be responsible. Typical in other libraries. RD Eno – in the past a number of events – library trustees always responsible for cleanup and use the rules of the building. Betterment of the Community. Kurt: Budget – we can come up with a budget then we put forward - We start October, November – they could come up with – that happened 2-3 years ago. Early October – for a library meeting. There is no problem.

We now have new cherry shelving provided by a bequest, more shelving coming. Computers – we have 4 and it was by dedicated grant money. Floor was done by Kathleen husband and Paul and Beth Wade. We also have new chairs, and more youth fiction. And we have 25% more storage space. We did order a projector. How many subs do you have: 3-4 every week to help out, shelving, and to catalogue books, or delete books we no longer have. On the board they have a student volunteer on the Board. If the Library has other items – email Mike or Betty.

Grant to do some improvements – board – fine with it. Muriel – actual design, to be approved by the Select Board.

4. Adjourn – A motion was made by Mike with a second by Fred, motion carried and we adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Ritter, Clerk/Treasurer