



Board of Trustees
Georgetown Peabody Library
2 Maple Street
Georgetown, MA 01833

MINUTES OF THE GEORGETOWN PEABODY LIBRARY TRUSTEE MEETING

Wednesday, August 9, 2023

Present: Sue Clay, Chris Laut, Kevin Moran, Megan Lichty, Aimee Hamelin, and Children's Librarian, Cathy Dewitt

Absent: Sue Clohecy

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:04 PM.

Old Business:

Minutes:

- Chris Laut makes a motion to accept the minutes for the July 12, 2023 meeting. Megan Lichty seconds. Unanimously approved.

Director's Report

Staffing:

- Staff coverage is suffering due to medical issues and school restarting.
- Sarah Cognata, Library Director, returns from leave on September 18.
- Sharon Broll and Cathy Dewitt, decided that children's programming would pause after summer programming and at least until Sarah Cognata's return.

Patron Behavior:

- Young Adult Issues
 - Another group is being rowdy. Kyle Coston, Teen Librarian, decided to talk with Officer Ford, who said that this was an issue elsewhere. They can call her if there is another incident to be a presence.
- First Amendment Audit visit
 - Two people came in on Monday, July 31 recording video. Cathy Dewitt recognized their behavior and remembered training from Sarah Cognata, Library Director, for possible first amendment visits.
 - The library staff did not escalate the situation and handled the incident well. Officer Ford talked with staff afterwards, saying these people do show up occasionally at town buildings.
 - Cathy Dewitt received three emails citing receipts of complaints to the Mass Attorney General on behalf of the library. She is not sure if someone is posing as a library employee to complain about the incident, but knows these complaints do not come from staff and are false. Town Administrator, Orlando Pacheco, has been informed. He has

contacted the Attorney General.

- Trustees discussed MBLC best practices and the fact the Library Staff followed them well. They have had a staff meeting since, according to Cathy Dewitt. Staff is recovering and will reassess when Sarah Cognata returns from leave.

Building Maintenance:

- Light bulbs replaced by Dan Birarelli.
- Fax line repaired after being chewed by some unknown rodent.
- Pest management - Likely a rodent is dead in the electrical room walls. Could not find it but the deodorizer helped. Yellow jacket nests sprayed outside by Freedom Pest Control.
- Heavy rains caused the drainage pipe outside the front entrance to clog, and caused some flooding inside the vestibule. Peter Durkee, Highway Surveyor and Tree Warden, was called as a heads up, but probably it is due to extra heavy rains. Skylight held up well and did not leak, apart from one corner dripping. This is a great improvement to the leaking situation that used to occur before the repair.

Kevin Moran moved to accept the Director's Report. Megan Lichty seconded. Unanimously approved.

Summer Reading Assignment from Penn Brook Elementary School:

- Cathy Dewitt is communicating to each family and passing out the paperwork about the books to be read over the summer due to miscommunication from the school. Staff is recommending titles that will cover multiple genres on the bingo sheet.

New Business:

- No new business.

Monthly Reports:

Friends Report:

- The Friends plan to have a banner made for people to know who they are. They are making lanyards too to make themselves known during events.

Bills/Payroll Report:

- Michele Augeri is doing bills. Cathy Dewitt is doing payroll.
- There were less Ingram invoices noted, but many were at the end of the previous month. Michele Augeri has decided to start ordering from Baker and Taylor again as their shipping speeds are back to where they used to be pre-pandemic. In addition, it is summertime and the start of the fiscal year so there is generally less ordering of books.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:43 PM.

Megan Lichty makes motion; Chris Laut seconds. Unanimously approved.

Prepared by Aimee Hamelin on August 9, 2023.

Next meeting: September 13, 2023 at 7:00 PM.