

**Board of Trustees Meeting
Converse Free Library
Monday, February 4, 2019
Approved Meeting Minutes**

Present: Audrey Brown, Dan O'Hara, Judy Russell, Deborah Robinson, Pete Swart, Marybeth Durkin, Georgina Voegelé, Jeff Valence (Lyme School),

Meeting called to order at 7:08 p.m.

Opening

- Books trustees are reading: *The Garden of Evening Mists*, *The Perfect Nanny*, *Becoming*.

Review and approval of January meeting minutes

- Motion made and seconded (Dan, Marybeth) to approve as submitted.

Treasurer's Report – Pete

- Pete circulated a revised statement for December, noting some expenditures that hadn't made it onto that statement.
- In January, fee for copier contract and *New York Times* online subscription came out of the library checking account; a \$100 donation was deposited. Brief discussion of the cost of the *NYT* subscription—paper / electronic options.
- Discussion about Friends request that the library website include a PayPal link so website visitors can easily make a donation to the Friends through PayPal. Judy plans to set this up. Discussion about whether a separate link might allow for direct donations to the library or if this would cause confusion.

Library Director's Report –Judy

- Swan Grant committee will meet at the library on Wednesday night, at Judy's invitation.
- Statistics: slight downward trend in circulation overall. Steady attendance and visits. Library use showing robust numbers. Judy has changed the way she shows circulation total; it's more accurate but could look like an unexplained jump in circulation.
- Judy has created a spreadsheet of new library acquisitions and will circulate in her communication to Lyme residents.
- Ongoing and upcoming events:
 - Wednesday, Feb. 6, Aline Ordman Art Opening.
 - U.S. Economic Update--Emily Blanchard of the Tuck School at Dartmouth will be at the library on Tuesday, Feb. 12, at 7:00 p.m.
 - Ongoing Family Library Time on Thursday mornings. Attendance has been erratic and Judy is working on figuring out the right balance of offerings for the current crop of young families. When attendees are a boisterous group, sharing the upstairs space with other patrons can be challenging (despite general staff tolerance for some library chaos). Consensus was that getting the window well exit installed would help with hosting of these sorts of events. Judy also trying to determine best way to make

expectations of appropriate library behavior clear while ensuring families with young children feel welcome.

- Budget update: Budget committee approved the library's budget with a very narrow vote. It was a challenging budget process overall. General discussion of the process, including concerns about the committee's perception that the library has a healthy endowment and whether some of the pushback specific to the library might be due to the library being only partially town funded.

Jeff Valence—School update

- Judy and Jeff will be looking at how positions relating to library services will be configured next year. Current plan is that Laura Abbene (the school's Design Lab teacher, who holds library media certification) will provide both library and tech services to Lyme School students. Laura will focus on instruction; Judy will continue to do circulation work for the school collection.
- The school's strategic planning process is moving along well, currently at the stage of receiving input from the school community.

Buildings and Grounds—Dan

- Dan and Mark Bolinger met with Swan Grant Committee last week as part of the grant proceedings. It was primarily an information-gathering session. Committee would like written agreement from the neighbors (the Princes) that they are okay with the obstructing tree being taken down. The committee was interested in more information about the life of the solar panels in relation to the life of the roof and the current status of net metering in New Hampshire.
- The recently closed Dartmouth Bookstore is offering its furnishings for free to people willing to haul them away. Judy is considering shelving units for the downstairs meeting room. Possibly available are large units, which might be ideal replacements for the floor-to-ceiling shelves on the main floor, which is a planned renovation. Discussion of value in acquiring and storing those units, which would mean substantial savings over the cost of purchasing new units. The Board approved a motion (Deb/Georgina) to allocate \$2,500 to moving and storage if the shelves are deemed a good replacement.
- Library spring cleanup is scheduled for March 23.

Friends Update

- Their next meeting is February 11. Audrey will try to go.

The meeting was adjourned (Audrey/Marybeth) at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Audrey Brown

The mission of the Converse Free Library is to foster a love of reading in the Lyme community. In a welcoming environment, the library provides services and resources that encourage learning, stimulate curiosity, and invite the sharing of ideas.