

Converse Free Library Board of Trustees Draft Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 1, 2021

Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm and conducted via Zoom.

Roll Call - Audrey Brown, Marybeth Durkin, Dan O’Hara, Kaye Ramsden, Deb Robinson, Judy Russell, Pete Swart, Beth Taylor, and Georgina Voegele. John Biglow joined from the public.

Public Comment

1. John Biglow reported that he had submitted his name to run for the board in March.

December Meeting Minutes - Audrey

1. January regular meeting minutes were reviewed. Deb made a motion to approve, Dan seconded, and all members were in favor.

Treasurer - Pete

1. The Lyme Town Library Financial Report was reviewed. An “active” January with \$365 received in donations and \$378 paid in expenses. The checking account balance is approximately \$5500.
2. The most recent budget report from the town is not available.

Library Director Report - Judy

1. The donations from Blisters for Books and the Birthday Book Club that came in have been spent. \$11,000 has been budgeted for books. Pete proposed holding off on the purchase of juvenile books and asking the school to help with the expense. Judy and Audrey will explore options.
2. Judy is taking a class on mastering Ancestry.com.
3. Annual American Library Association awards—are *We Are Water Protectors* (2021 Caldecott Medal Winner) and *When You Trap a Tiger* (2021 Newbery Medal Winner) — are available at the library. Recognizing their value, Judy added both to the inventory even before they were awarded top honors!
4. January circulation statistics were reviewed. A new record for the number of eBooks borrowed was established - 374!
5. Megan and Judy set up the Dartmouth Bookstore bookshelves and will move forward with labeling the shelves and disassembling the older shelves which house the juvenile collection.
6. Judy is working with other librarians on a virtual engagement plan for kids.

Technology Committee – Judy

1. Setting up Aspen Discovery Service, a user-friendly catalog interface for patrons, is moving along. Judy and her colleagues are soliciting other participants and negotiating with ByWater Solutions. Larger Koha libraries in NH have offered to contribute more to the overall cost. An initial outlay of \$1250 is anticipated. Estimated date of availability is 2022.

Fundraising – Kaye

1. Kaye proposed reaching out to our most loyal donors who might be interested in contributing to the endowment. Kaye would like input from the board about elements of the library that are most important to them and will reach out to each member individually. She suggested inviting the potential donors to a library meeting, as telling our story is very important.

Buildings and Grounds Committee – Dan

1. The sign post repair has been completed.
2. Cole Electric will take care of the various lighting issues this week - pending the anticipated snow.
3. HVAC – Judy continues to explore options and would like the update in place by the time the library opens to in person.
4. Spring work day – we will firm up a day at the March meeting. May 1 tentatively identified.

Board Size – Audrey and Judy

1. Update on moving to a 7 member board. Dina had checked with the town attorney who reported that the proposal needs to be brought up as a warrant article. This would entail a potential 2 year process – the 1st year to obtain the town vote and the 2nd year to reset the membership, with all seats being vacated and board members reelected Overall, not a simple process. Debate remains, however, especially in context of the library's standing as a self-governing entity in the state of New Hampshire. Judy has researched the complexities (see her detailed Jan/Feb Church Newsletter column) and Audrey has also explored the issue. Filing has closed for March Town Meeting – there are 3 open seats with 3 candidates running. Postponing the move to a 7-member board was suggested. as further research is warranted to establish a precise understanding of the library's self-governing boundaries before moving ahead. A motion to table the decision on moving from a 9 member board to a 7 member board was made by Kaye, seconded by Deb, and all were in favor.

Strategic Planning – updates in March

Upcoming Virtual Event

1. Tuesdays, 1:30-3 pm, **Tech Tuesday**
2. Wednesdays, 3-5 pm, **Handcrafters Gathering online**
3. Ongoing Virtual Book Groups

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marybeth Durkin

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.