

Converse Free Library Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 1, 2021

In attendance: Audrey Brown, Judy Russell, Dan O'Hara, Pete Swart, Georgina Voegele, Deb Robinson, Kaye Ramsden, John Biglow, and Julie Goodrich.

7:10 pm meeting called to order

No public in attendance or comments

Brief discussion of future "trustee 101" topics

No changes or amendments to the October meeting minutes. Approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Pete reported that it had been a good month with over \$10,000 coming in from the Blisters for Books fundraising event and over \$1,000 for the Birthday Book Club. Judy commented that Blisters had been particularly successful with the total being a "record breaker" and over 50% of school kids turning in their pledged funds.

Director's Report:

Judy gave a brief budget update – budget increase this year comes in at a 4.14% increase. Response from the select board and budget committee so far is encouraging.

The recent Robert Goodby presentation (on Native American archaeological sites in New Hampshire) and Jane O'Neil presentation (on Andrew Wyeth's art) events were successful, with good attendance and very positive feedback. A second Jane O'Neil presentation will be on 12/7 on the subject of WWII stolen art.

After presenting some statistics on changing usage trends for the library, Judy led the board in a discussion of how best to allocate resources and space to accommodate library patrons' emerging digital and print preferences. Plans include reduction of the DVD collection, moving some down to the basement area. Also discussed how to better arrange and use the main library space.

Judy raised the issue of when/how to resume normal hours at the library and related concerns, process for making that decision. Board agreed now is not the time but will add the topic as a standing agenda item for our board meetings for the next several months.

Other - the library saw 250+ trick or treaters for Halloween. Aspen project anticipated to go live on November 15.

Buildings & Grounds Report:

Some of the new LED bulbs that were problematic have been replaced. The Cole Electric project is now complete. Air conditioning units have been removed for the winter. Exploring with Bucky some springtime projects.

Strategic Plan Update:

School-library meeting was postponed until next week, so the update was delayed until the next Board meeting.

Board needs: will have three openings for trustees coming up. Board members asked to send candidate ideas to Judy and Audrey. Particular areas of expertise/roles needed will be a Treasurer, Secretary, and Fundraising.

Judy hopes to be circulating a short survey in November to give us some data on community needs and preferences.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Next board meeting will be at 7:00 pm on December 6th.