

Converse Free Library Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 7, 2022

Meeting called to order at 7:08 pm and conducted in person.

Roll Call - John Biglow, Marybeth Durkin, Julie Goodrich, Dan O'Hara, Deb Robinson, Kaye Ramsden, Judy Russell, and Pete Swart.

Deb thanked the outgoing trustee members Marybeth and Dan, and Judy for arranging a Zoom meeting of candidates running for town positions.

Public Comment – none

Trustees 101 – Pending legislation on background checks and remote meetings - Kaye has researched this and will present at a future board meeting.

February Meeting Minutes – Approved by Kaye, seconded by Julie, and all members present approved.

Treasurer Report

Pete sent the updated report to the board for review and we remain in stable fiscal shape with a checking account balance of \$5,332.

Library Director Report - Judy

Tasco inspected the security panel and fire alarms today - all well save for a small issue to repair.

Steve Campbell is helping Judy set up the new computers, including a Mac donated by Frank Bowles and 2 new PCs.

The library is back to regular hours! “We encourage you to mask and distance at your own discretion.”

Brian will be leaving May 27, 2022 and returning to Connecticut with his partner. Judy would like to have an outdoor farewell sometime in May. The Friends have offered to help with refreshments.

Library monthly statistics are stable.

Technology Committee – Judy

Aspen “go live” - Judy is working with beta testers to troubleshoot potential problems.

Buildings and Grounds Committee - Deb and Judy

Task tracking moved to a shared Google spreadsheet: “CFL.Fundraising Committee.Cost Projections”

Deb assisted in operating the indoor pumping chamber while Judy was away.

More updates to come in the spring.

Policy Committee - Judy

Judy and Audrey are reviewing the library policy review schedule and will update the board accordingly.

Strategic Plan - Judy

Judy continues to refine the Community Questionnaire and will review the survey once more before sending it out to the community.

Judy is exploring sustainability issues, including solar options, as they relate to the library and the community.

Fundraising Fundamental: Building Support from Individual Donors (webinar with Andy Robinson and Dana Bernard Sanders) - Kaye

Kaye has explored ways to engage in successful fundraising. A personal connection remains one of the most effective ways to fundraise. Inclusive involvement, identifying prospects (staff is the best group to do this), educate and cultivate (the “elevator speech” and Judy’s newsletter), the ask (F2F, house parties, website, emails, letters, calls, solicitation), and the thank and recognize. Building a foundation is important.

Upcoming Events

Deb reminded us of the March webinars from United for Libraries - she sent an email with a link to the webinars on March 4.

Bill Murphy will present by Zoom his pictorial history of Hanover High School on February 17 at 7pm.

Art Historian Jane Oneail of I Am Culturally Curious will present by Zoom on International Women's Day - "Fierce Females: Women in Art" on March 8 at 6:30pm.

Judy has reached out to Dr. Bill Wohlforth (Dartmouth Government professor, global security scholar) to present on the Battle for Ukraine. Pending date March 15.

Annual clean-up day - May 7. Judy will assemble a list of tasks.

Handcrafters are meeting at the library, Wednesdays, 3-5 p.m.

Tech Tuesdays, 1-3:30 p.m.

Story Time returning soon!

The next board meeting will be April 4 at 7pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18pm.

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.