



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
MONDAY, January 6, 2025, 7:00-9:00 PM
Location: Converse Free Library

DATE: 1/6/25 TIME: 7:15pm TYPE OF MEETING: Regular

PRESENT: Alex Bortolot, Melanie Isett (Chair), Philip Kinsler, Meg Lysy, Alex Nunez, Deb Robinson, Judy Russell (Director), Courtney Wise (joined by phone)

ABSENT: Erin O'Donnell, Kim Werner

PUBLIC PRESENT: Jim Nourse – Energy Committee

Call to Order at 7:21pm

1) Public comments

- Jim Nourse – Energy Committee -HVAC Update
- Jim provided background on energy project for town of Lyme and solar panels on fire station and library building
- Solar met 170% of the library building's electrical load this past year
- You can sell renewable credits and we might make ~\$850 a year by selling our credits if we decide to do that
- Heat pump project- energy comm put out an RFI – we really should do a complete energy audit for the building and this would be free for the public library
- Select Board has to approve the contract for anything with the town of Lyme on it and we are awaiting their approval
- There is a humidity issue in the basement that is key to the library's climate control. The Energy Committee will include it as part of the RFP.

2) Approval of December 2, 2024 meeting minutes

- Deb Robinson made a motion to approve the minutes with Erin O'Donnell added as absent, Alex Bortolot seconded, all are in favor

3) Library Director's Report

- Neighborhood Book Club is going to be rebranded Gentle Reads Book Group
- Judy reviewed upcoming events and provided end of year numbers, all included in the Jan 6 Librarian's Report



- There are two areas we overspent in our municipal budget this year (heat/fuel and cataloging/processing) but in general we are coming out ahead
- The Friends have been paying for subscriptions to Ancestry Library Edition and Heritage Quest Online, but given low numbers, Judy has canceled but is open to reevaluating if there is demand
- Select Board Meeting – Information Meeting on Safety Crosswalk – Tues. Jan 14, 6pm. The proposal is to add a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) sign to the crosswalk next to the school so it is a safer crossing. Deb Robinson moved to make a library statement that the board discussed this issue and unanimously supports the light on the crosswalk and Judy has agreed to share with Dina
- NH State Librarian Nomination withdrawn by Gov Sununu
 - i. There is a statewide letter campaign supporting Mindy Atwood and “freedom to read”
 - ii. Judy will share the template with the trustees

4) Treasurer’s Report – Alex N.

- The board voted to accept and expend donations received during 2024 (delayed from Dec 2024) and will continue to do this monthly. This vote to approve funds received the prior month needs to be publicly announced in the monthly agenda and the meeting minutes
 - Philip Kinsler moved to accept the donations as described in the “Donations Received by Lyme Town Library,” Deb Robinson seconded and all approved
- Library checking account overview
 - Alex suggests we move to an accrual-based system which would include separate lines for funds received, not deposited, and same thing for checks sent, not cashed, so that the balance would be accurate and complete

5) Committee Reports

Policy Committee – Alex B and Phil

- No update

Buildings and Grounds Committee – Judy (in Erin’s absence)

- Painting project is ongoing but almost complete
- Emergency door project needs to be addressed asap
- Front steps – concrete estimate was given over the phone from Clifford Concrete and Melanie is tracking it down. He can do front and side steps at the same time and is also able to make the steps the same height which will make them safer

Strategic Planning Committee – Courtney and Melanie

- Board retreat date is Sunday, January 26



Personnel Committee- Deb and Melanie

- The committee will be meeting with Judy this week

6) **Business Requiring Action or Discussion**

- Friends Book Sale Fundraiser recap- traffic was slow but the event was very well run
- Board terms ending March 2025- Melanie, Meg, Kim
 - Melanie will not be running for another term, Meg will be running again and Melanie will follow up with Kim (filing period opens Jan 22)
 - John Campbell is interested in joining the library board

7) **Upcoming Events**

- Mah Jongg Mondays, 1:30-5:00 pm
- Tech Tuesdays, 1:30-3 pm
- Handcrafters Gathering, Wednesdays, 2-5 pm
- Nonfiction Virtual Book Group - ongoing - reading *Premonition: A Pandemic Story*, by Michael Lewis
- Neighborhood Book Group - discussing *Norwegian Wood*, by Haruki Murakami on Tuesday, January 21, 7pm (rebranding as Gentle Reads Book Group in February)
- Peggy Little Display Case: Emma Lumley's various creations January & February
- Friends Art Show. Rachel Garvey (photography), January 6 - March 29 (reception January 15, 5:30-7pm)
- Afterschool Movie: *The Wild Robot*, Tuesday, January 14, 3-5 pm
- Culturally Curious online, with Jane Oneail: "Devil with a Brush: Caravaggio's Dramatic Masterpieces," Tuesday, January 14, 6 pm. Pre-registration required
- Library closed for MLK Day Monday, January 20

Meeting Adjourned: 9pm

Next Meeting: February 3, 2025

Submitted and recorded by Meg Lysy