

Town of Hubbardston
Board of Library Trustees

MEETING MINUTES April 7, 2022

Meeting held at the Library

Members Present: Josephine Amato, Connie Strittmatter, Bob Cronin,
Morgan Brinker

Absent: Tom Robinson, Krista Goguen

Other present: Chris Barbera, Library Director, Brittany Blaney, guest.

Call Meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

AGENDA:

- **Guest** Brittany Blaney, WHPA Public Access

WHPA has offered committee meeting coverage throughout Hubbardston. Library zoom meetings have averaged 6 to 10 views. As there is public interest and to increase public awareness/interest WHPA is offering the option to cover Library Trustee meetings, library events and presenters such as author events. WHPA would gain consent prior to recording, would focus on presenters, and exclude any patrons who do not want to be recorded. Library Trustees want to include additional input of Tom Robinson and Krista Goguen as such will review the topic at the May 5th Library Trustee meeting.

- **Library Director's report (including potential upcoming library events)**

Chris Barbera presented an overview of the April 7, 2022 Library Director's Report. Facebook reach (2,912), likes (713), followers (797) and views continue to increase. Instagram started. Wifi connections increased with 105 in February compared to 124 in March. Three new patron cards were issued. There was one curbside delivery for which the patron was grateful for the continued service. Circulation also increased in March to 1404 items circulated from 1030 in February. The Director's report also includes a summary of the library accounts. The library closed early once due to a snow squall.

Library Programs: The Senior Book Club met and discussed "The Good Neighbor: The Life and Works of Fred Rogers" by Maxwell King. The book was well received and there were 7 in attendance. The April book club selection will be the "The Personal Librarian" by Marie Benedict. Our displays in the Adult Reading Room for February were new acquisitions and "Once upon a crime" a variety of true crime and crime related fiction books. The Children's room display celebrated "Women in STEM" We hosted a Zoom program on Mar23rd from the Blackstone Valley Veggie Gardens on "Beginning Hydroponics". There were 8 in attendance. The glass case to display items from the Historical Society from Gary Kangas was brought over by Tom Robinson and son. It seems a bit large for the foyer. I am investigating other possible locations for it.

Hubbardston Center School classes have been visiting attributing to 177 patrons coming into the library in March. A QRSD student has reached out seeking volunteer opportunities for which Chris will be following up.

We will also be participating in a Quabbin Community Read with the other Quabbin libraries (Barre, Oakham, New Braintree and Hardwick) in April and May. We will be reading “The Witness Tree” by Amy Pendino, copies are still available. There will be a patron meeting with Harvard Forest May 22nd.

<https://harvardforest.fas.harvard.edu/witness-tree>

<https://harvardforest.fas.harvard.edu/witness-tree-social-media-project>

We are also exploring other speakers including Robert Leverett, “Premier old-growth forest evangelist.” Cofounder and President of the Friends of the Mohawk Trail State Forest. Also Cofounder of the Native Tree Society (NTS).

- **Meeting minutes for February 3, 2022.**

Connie made a motion to approve the February 3rd minutes, Morgan seconded the motion. All approved.

- **Meeting minutes for virtual March 17, 2022**

Brief summary of the virtual meeting and trustee discussion of importance of maintaining building maintenance and improvements.

Morgan made a motion to approve the March 17th minutes, Bob seconded the motion. All approved.

- **May 5th 6pm 150th public library celebration event**

Trustees discussed holding a public recognition in honor of the 150th anniversary of the Hubbardston free public library and to take past trustees. Celebration to be held at 6pm followed by monthly Trustee meeting at 7pm.

- **HPL Scholarship**

Morgan will update the dates on posters, applications, etc. This will post of library social media and in the library. Josephine will send the forms to local schools. Two \$500 scholarships will be awarded at the July 7th trustee meeting.

- **Trustee Board positions election discussion**

Trustees discussed the importance of splitting the chair position into a one-year term and circulating it throughout the library trustees. Proposal to adopt a one-year term was discussed and popular among attending trustees. Preference for experienced trustee such as Connie, Tom and Krista to take the role over the next three years respectfully. Will discuss again when Tom and Krista are in attendance.

- **Heat pump replacement discussion tabled**

Will review when Tom is in attendance.

- **25th annual Hubbardston Road Race**

Planning underway. First meeting will be in May 9 5:30 pm at the Library

Future Agenda items:

- Discussion/ideas about ADA compliance
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- Continue review of library policies
- Posting documents to Google drive
- Discussion of activities for 150th anniversary
- Further Grants research information/discussion including ALA
- Heat pump replacement

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Morgan Brinker

Next Meeting: 6:00PM HPL 150th and Trustee Celebration Meeting followed by
7:00 PM, May 5th, 2022