

Town of Hubbardston
Board of Library Trustees
Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2021

Members present: Josephine Amato, Tom Robinson, Morgan Brinker, Krista Goguen, Connie Strittmatter and Johanna Henning

Interim Director's report was read by Morgan:

There were 13 curbside pickups and 69 patrons total. February is a short month and we had snowy weather on three of the four Tuesdays this month, so the numbers for patrons are done. We were also closed for Presidents Day which affected the Curbside numbers. I anticipate that our patron visits will increase as the weather improves. Krista and Gabbie have been focused on weeding our non-fiction collection, providing us with much needed shelf space. We put out displays for Black History month, President's Day and Valentine's Day in the Adult and Children's room. Since the senior book club is on hiatus until the Senior Center re-opens, we are offering a variation on curbside pickup for the seniors. If they request a book, and they have a valid library card, we will check the book out to them and bring it to the Senior Center for pickup when they offer the egg pickup. Michelle is gearing up for story time again, starting date yet to be determined. We will be offering families craft kits to go along with story time.

Finally, the trustees received a thank you card from one of last year's scholarship recipients. I scanned and forwarded her letter to you all in an email.

Scholarship Fund

There has been one applicant for the scholarship so far. After discussion, it was decided by the Board to maintain the same standards and awards for the scholarships. Tom stated that the Library has enough funds to cover two scholarship awards, Morgan proposed that the original wording and intent be kept and to maintain similar dates of application and awarding of the scholarship.

Chris will put out the information to the local high schools and Tom will update the flyers.

Krista proposed sending the information and flyers to the guidance counselors to distribute.

Morgan will make sure that Hubbardston Celebration gets the information.

The scholarship information and application will also be on the Library website.

CPC Update - Tom Robinson

At the meeting Tom learned that the CPC now wants amount statements vs. estimates. The CPC board suggested that Tom ask for a larger grant to begin with, rather than coming back with requests for grants for similar items. Tom is now getting quotes and will use them to re-estimate and back up the Library's application.

Tom would like a vote of approval on the revised estimates/quotes and some contingency funds from the CPC.

At this point, the Library has \$10,000 from a previous allocation from the town, which will be used towards the needed work on the foundation. Insofar as possible, we will use some help from the DPW, so as to stretch the funds that much further.

Some of the other projects are

- Grinding out and replacing the mortar that has deteriorated between the bricks near the foundation.
- Landscaping. To this end, Tom has been in contact with ML Altobelli of Greenery in Motion about doing a walkabout of the Library grounds and plantings with an eye to making the grounds more accessible and attractive. To this end, we will use the Fairman Fund to pay for her services.
- For the landscaping, there is \$5000 available from the Fairman Fund and we can get \$20,000 in allocated funding from the CPC. Also, we can get \$10,000 from the town and use monies from the Dog Fund.
- The landscaping will be done after the town center work has been done. Some of the brush and tree removal can and will be done beforehand, though. There was some discussion of landscaping ideas for the Library post Main St rebuild.
- Other projects include upgrading the electrical system. Waterford Electric has been contacted about lit exit signs and emergency lighting. The Board also needs a realistic idea of how much upgrading the electrical system will cost.

Motion by Morgan to approve the revised CPC application with the updated estimates. Seconded by Krista, passed unanimously.

Other Business – Josephine Amato

It has been noted that the Library Board is not a priority Zoom meeting as far as the town is concerned. Although Josephine does her best to schedule well in advance, there is always the possibility that the meeting will get canceled or not initiated.

- There was a brief discussion of assorted ways that the Zoom account would be used by the library, not limited to the Board of Trustees meetings.

Motion by Johanna that the Library gets its own Zoom account. Krista seconded, passed unanimously.

Meeting ended at 8.07 pm

Next meeting April 1 at 7.00 pm

Respectfully submitted, Johanna Henning