



Whitingham Free Public Library

Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes Feb. 2, 2022 - Draft

In attendance: Edie Brigham, MA Johnson, Maryann Cheveralls, Adam Ranslow, Catherine Bell, Kristine Sweeter, Director and Elaina Gibb-Buursma

Call to Order: 5:08 PM

Public Comments: Elaina Gibb-Buursma presented an idea to the board concerning the need in the community for a mini free food pantry to be located at the Municipal Center. She is seeking support from the board after presenting the idea to the Whitingham Selectboard, who rejected the idea on grounds of space in the building and maintenance issues. Elaina said it would be stocked by grocery store donations as well as donations from the public. People would be able to discretely take what they need or leave donations. The board discussed having a cart in the library that could be put in the hall during regular Library hours. Edie said she would check with the Selectboard on putting it in the hall way and Elaina said she would check on the shelf weekly to make sure there are no expired date items. Maryann moves to locate a mini food pantry in the library, pending a more accessible area. Adam seconds, all approve.

Jan. Meeting Minutes: Adam moves to approve Jan.5, 2022 minutes as amended, Maryann seconded, all approve.

Director's report:

Programing: Story hour will continue on Saturdays and Rhyme time on Mondays with a special Rhyme time on Valentine's Day.

ARPA grant update: Staff laptops and Patron desktops purchased and set-up is complete, new furniture pending.

Fundraising: Annual appeal @ \$9,950.00, split between 2020-21 and 2021-2022 fiscal years.

Due to Covid, Maplefest has been canceled again so quilt raffle is on hold. New fundraising ideas will be needed.

Staff: Update on Vacation and sick days.

2022 Town Meeting: Whitingham will not hold in person Town Meeting this year, and appropriations will be voted on by Australian Ballot. Kristine has some concerns about the vote for the library, Edie suggested having some press releases about library programs, activities and partnerships and Kristine encouraged talking to community members about support for the library.

Other: The library recently acquired a Merlin Enhanced Video Magnifier, after a demonstration on how it works, the board discussed whether the library should keep it or pass it on. MA moves to donate the Merlin Enhanced Video Magnifier to the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum, Adam seconds, all approve.

2022 Partnerships: Brattleboro Area Hospice, So.VT. Natural History Museum, 211 United Way

Summer movies will return this year with an "oceans" theme.

Maryann moves to adjourn, MA seconds all approve, meeting adjourns at 6:05 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Catherine Bell

Director's Report  
Kristine Sweeter  
February 2, 2022

- ❖ Programming:
  - Winter Story Hour Saturdays / Rhyme Time Mondays
  - ♥ Special valentine Rhyme Time event w/cookie decorating and Fairy Queen from 211
  - Adult Winter Craft Group
  - Pin Pong is temp cancelled due to covid
  - No new programs are planned until March due to covid
  
- ❖ Grants:
  - ARPA Grant
  - purchased staff laptop – set-up complete
  - purchase patron desktops – set-up complete
  - researching furniture & office chairs
  
- ❖ Fundraising:
  - Account balance: \$32, 483.00
  - 2021 Annual Appeal to date: \$9,950 (2020-2021 \$5,443 / 2021-2022 \$4507)
  - 2021-2022 Total fundraising \$6,251
  
- ❖ -Staff
  - Vacation carry-over
  - Kristine 2021 – **10 days**
  - Lois 2020 – 2 days / 2021 – 15 days Total - **17 days**
  - Gina 2021 – **7 days**
  - Sick day bank
  - Kristine - 9 days / Lois - 14 days / Gina – 13 days
  
- ❖ 2022 Town Meeting – Australian Ballot
  - Advocating for the Library
  
- ❖ Other
  - Possible donation to Southern VT Nat. History Museum for interactive children's exhibit:  
Merlin Enhanced video magnifier donated 2020/21 – value \$500 - \$1200
  
- ❖ 2022 Partnerships:
  - Brattleboro Area Hospice ACP
  - So. VT Natural History Museum / snow shoes
  - 211/ United Way