

Abbott Memorial Library

Board of Trustees Minutes

January 16th, 2023

The January meeting took place via Zoom.

The meeting began at 7.06pm.

Present: Cory Smith (Librarian), Sue Heston (Assistant Librarian), Susan Burgess, Betsy Rhodes, Tina Clifford, Cara DeFoor, and Jocelyn Randles.

Absent: Mary Worrell

The agenda and December 2022 minutes (both for the regular board and special meeting to discuss the scoping study) were approved.

Reports

Librarian: *Cory Smith*

- The next town report features the library. Photos of staff and events are requested.
- The *Alzheimer's Canyon* author reading, and discussion went well. Turnout was lower than expected but the attendees (18 including trustees) were engaged and asked good questions. The Zoom connection did not work and so a copy of the recording will be sent to those who request it.
- Storytime starts on Thursday, January 19th and will take place every week for 5 weeks. The volunteer doing this (Liz) is working on a Groundhog program.
- The library will celebrate Valentine's Day with craft bags. There will be no party this year due to health concerns.

Building and Grounds: *Betsy Rhodes*

- Betsy has collected bat guano from the attic to send to the VT Wildlife Department for their study. She will vacuum up the remainder.
- The Radon reading in the basement fluctuates. Betsy has discussed possible causes with the plumber who installed the air exchanger (10 years ago). He has been helpful, and she is working on mitigation.
- Our response to the scoping study proposals has been sent and acknowledged. The feedback and possibly a decision is slated for the next town meeting on February 1st.

Treasurer: *Susan Burgess*

- Susan distributed financial reports prior to the meeting. They were the financial and assets report for the 2022 town auditors report (put together with help from Betsy and Cory) and the monthly P&L for the first 6 months of FY2022.
- They were discussed and approved.

Development: *Mary Worrell*

- Donations in response to the annual appeal are currently at \$10K. This is in line with previous fundraising cycles. Mary has sent thank you notes to all donors.

Outreach/Community Liaison: *Jocelyn Randles, Cara DeFoor*

- Cara is meeting with Jeff Bernstein this week to discuss his poetry presentation.
- If the COVID risk is not high, a MOTH event is planned for March.
- The board is interested in hosting a presentation on green burials. There is concern about holding an indoor event at the library in the winter as the room is small and has limited ventilation. To understand options for venues and timing, Jocelyn will:
 - Contact Artistree to thank them for supporting the Jane Dwinell event, check that we were good stewards, and gauge willingness to let us use the space again.
 - Contact the green burial presenter to see how flexible she is on timing.

Chair: *Tina Clifford*

- Tina is to ask the town clerk when candidates need to declare their interest (and whether there is going to be a ballot and/or a town meeting to approve nominees).
- Sue H. identified some potential candidates and Tina is going to explore their interest.
- The annual librarian evaluation is to take place next month with Tina plus one board member.
- Betsy has agreed to stay on for another term.

Old Business

- Sue H. would like to step down from organizing traffic control for the half marathon.
- She has taken responsibility for it for the past ten years and the library gets \$500 for doing it.
- Everyone would like to see it continue and are exploring who may take responsibility going forward.

The meeting was adjourned at 9.15pm. The next board meeting will take place at 7pm on Monday February 20th, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Jocelyn Randles

