

Exeter Public Library Trustees Minutes
May 20, 2014

Present: J. Henson, G. Kenney, R. Lent, D. Moore, B. Young, H. Godino
Absent: B. Crespi, M. Lafreniere, D. Leonard, L. Wilson,

Call to Order: 6:31 pm. Mary opened the meeting with roll call.

The minutes of the April 15 meeting were accepted.

Gwen asked that Trustees discuss library business with Hope and not other staff members. Hope is the director and as such, all library business must go through her. At the same time, Trustees must always function as a unit and cannot act alone.

Correspondence: There was a letter from the Great Bay Charter School thanking us for a donation of 2 old CD shelves.

Director's Report:

The ongoing outreach Book Talks to seniors has been very successful. We take a variety of fiction, nonfiction, and few classics and everyone enjoys the discussion.

On May 14th the Evening Book Group ate Russian sponge cake (Biskvit) while discussing The City of Thieves. In June the group will read The Kinship. The Morning's Book Group's selection for the month of May is Madame Bovary. In June the group will read First Family.

Remember, movies with popcorn, once a month on the first Monday at 1PM. The next movie will be Monday June 2. The movie will be ready to start at 1PM and we ask that anyone interested arrive no later than 1:05 to ensure all patrons can enjoy the movie without interruption.

We are continuing to collect email address for patrons who would like to receive our email newsletter in 2014. If you are interested please sign-up at the adult service desk.

Teen book groups finished in April and will begin again in October. Summer plans have been finalized, and we will again offer a rock concert in Founders Park as one of the teen programs and of course, the annual frozen t-shirt contest. The TAB met in May to work on the display board in the teen area. This project is totally their idea and is coming along very well. Winners of the 2014 Flume Award and Isinglass Award were announced along with nominated books for the 2015 awards--all of which are available for our teen readers.

In the Children's Room, we offered a special event during school vacation week. The kids decorated a flower pot.

Children's book groups ended in April. Sign-up for the next book groups will be in September to begin discussions in October.

The Page Turners participated in our Ceiling Tile Painting Project and it was a huge success. An additional 20 tiles were added in the Children's Room ceiling.

This is the last session for Lapsit and preschool Storytime for the current school year. During the summer we will offer preschool Storytime on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at 10AM and 2PM. No sign-up is required for summer stories which allow more flexibility for parents.

We will offer two summer reading program for the children:

Fizz, Boom! Pop, READ!

A flexible, fun-filled reading program, children can set their own weekly reading goals. The program is geared to children age 3 and older. Sign-up begins June 30th.

Bust-a-Book@thMovies

A summer reading program for children who are entering 4th, 5th & 6th grade.

A weekly movie, based on a children's book, will be shown. Copies of each book that coincide with the movie will be available to read before watching the DVD. Following the movie we will conduct a brief "Book Talk" and share similar books to the movie that children may enjoy reading.

At the NHLTA meeting there were many good ideas that will be very extremely useful for our renovation & repurposing, as well as many suggestions for assistance with fund raising. One comment from the keynote speaker was interesting especially since it confirms the position the Board decided to take for our last strategic plan, "concentrate on your library users". Another comment was to personalize fundraising letters, something the Board already does.

As you know, the role of the public library has changed and this was a major discussion point in all the sessions I attended. A number of suggestions were given concerning developing a warrant article and getting support for that article particularly starting to develop support long before the article is on the ballot. Some of these strategies can be applied to our 2015 Warrant Article. The suggestions included Trustees going out into town and knocking on doors and speaking, with one voice, to people about the changing role of the library and how the long range plan to update and repurpose the building and its heat/ac to be energy efficient are essential to the future of the library and indeed the town.

There was so much more at each session that I suggest everyone go to the NHLTA website because all the information from every session will be online. Also check out everylibrary.org. Every library is a nonprofit organization chartered to work on local library ballot initiatives. I am contacting John Chrastka, a member of their board who was the speaker at two of the sessions I attended, to ask how and if they can help us with support for our renovation & repurposing plan

Operating Statement:

The operating statement was accepted.

Building, Grounds and Technology: -0-

Finance and Fundraising: -0-

Long Range Plan:

Hope has hired the architectural firm of Sheerr, McCrystal Palson Architecture, Inc. to help us with a plan for repurposing our library building. Hope says that the library has the money to pay for this plan and it has come from past Annual Appeals and last year's basket event. A committee of residents, town employees, and staff has formed and has begun meeting.

The next basket event will be held in the fall here at the library..

Personnel & Policy: -0-

Social: -0-

Continuing Business:

It is hoped that trustees will be able to help out by selling tickets and keeping an eye on the baskets in the library during this fall's basket event.

New Business:

Davis asked about the possibilities of starting a Friends group and a foundation. Hope suggested that possibly the Trustees would like to look into a Friends group. She said that foundations need separate boards and it could not be run by the Trustees; another entity like the Friends would have to be in charge of it.

Next Meeting: June 17, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned 7.13 pm

Pam Darlington