

*Craftsbury Public Library
Board of Trustees monthly meeting*

March 4, 2024

Trustees present: Alan Turnbull (Chair), Kim Wojnar (Vice-Chair), Ann Ingerson (Treasurer), Allison van Akkeren, Ailynne Adams, Misty Allen, Susan Dunklee

Non-voting attendees: Susan O'Connell (Head Librarian)

Trustees not present: Steve Moffatt (Town Representative), Marc Ciecierski

Minutes recorded by Susan D. (Secretary Deborah McKinley absent)

Meeting called to order at 4:30 pm by Alan.

Ann moved to approve minutes from the February meeting. Misty 2nded. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report given by Ann

January had included some expenses from February's payroll so Ann amended the January report to correct this.

A refunded printer is reflected in the February report and the cost of electrician Eric Bornemann's visit to check on the solar panels.

Alan moved to approve the amended January report and the February report. Ailynne 2nded. The motion passed unanimously.

Library Report given by Susan O.

The library was awarded a \$5000 grant from the Association of Rural Libraries for sustainability and promoting a sharing economy

Grant will go towards initiatives such as swaps, the Library of Things and Repair Cafe. Board brainstormed other potential projects such as a crafts swap and a Halloween costume swap. It was noted that there is momentum on this topic currently at the state level with the Right to Repair recently passing in the state legislature.

The library was awarded a \$1500 grant from VT Early Literacy Initiative

This will be used to trial a Saturday Storytime. There are plans to bring in Louise Calderwood to talk about maple sugaring in April, and the fire department to come in

later in the year. Other ideas were brainstormed by the Board include bringing in a school bus driver, carpenters, and farmers.

The library staff would also like to bring in Drag Story Hour as part of this grant. Susan reports that this is something the staff have discussed in the past but felt like they couldn't do it because of the cost, but now that barrier has been eliminated. Alan suggested that the Board discuss the potential controversy that could arise in the community from bringing in Drag Story Hour. Susan and the Board noted the importance of keeping the library a space where everyone in the community feels like they belong. Susan O emphasized that the series of Saturday Storytimes will feature all sorts of stories representing different people from our community and this would be one of many story themes. Susan O mentioned that in other communities, social media from outside the community sometimes targets these Drag Story Hour events to purposely stir up controversy, and she will prepare some responses to be ready for that and share with the Board. The Board suggested inviting local voices from within the community to be part of the Drag Story Hour if that is possible or there is interest locally.

Upcoming Programs

March 13 6pm- an astronomer is coming to present to both the school and the library about the coming eclipse. Library needs help getting the word out.

March 15- screening of Underdog, a movie about dairy farming and mental health. Filmmaker will not be present, but Harry Miller will lead some sort of discussion afterwards. Board suggested checking in with the Craftsbury Mental Health Resource Group to make sure they are aware and see if they want to be involved. This will likely be well attended. Library capacity is 99, and if needed signs will be posted to turn people away.

March 23rd- Pysanky Egg Decorating workshop will happen again. Some library patrons have been asking about it already and are starting to see it as a yearly tradition.

March 30th- Craft Swap

Staff Training

March 26th- Susan O and Jen away at a VT Early Literacy Initiative Training

Bylaws & Policy Working Group Report- Kim

Mission

Working Group recommends reworking the mission statement. This would need to be done during a Board retreat at a later date. Board discussed creating a shared document to start brainstorming for this. No further action taken at this time.

Bylaws

Working group brought several minor proposed changes to the Bylaws.

Board suggested adding links in the document to referenced state laws and outside organizations.

Ailynne brought several other minor edit suggestions for Bylaws.

All proposed revisions were discussed and workshopped.

Allison moved to accept these Bylaw revisions. Misty 2nded. The motion passed unanimously.

Policies

Working group brought several minor proposed changes to the Policies.

Board suggested adding links in the document to referenced state laws and outside organizations.

Ailynne brought several other minor edit suggestions for Policies.

All proposed revisions were discussed and workshopped.

Susan D moved to accept the Policy revisions. Ann 2nded. The motion passed unanimously.

Investment Working Group Report- Ann

Working Group will have a meeting with a new contact from One Day in July next Monday. They will bring their recommendation about whether to switch investments from Merrill Lynch to One Day in July to the April Board meeting.

Fundraising Working Group Report- Allison

Trouble with Harry themed fundraiser

This would happen in fall. A Board volunteer is needed to explore a collaboration with the Historical Society on this. So far no one has expressed taking a leadership role to make this happen. There was a suggestion to ask Deborah (absent) if this is something she might be interested in.

Tiny House Tours

Proposed date for this fundraiser is in July. Board needs to start reaching out to tiny house owners very soon to see if this is a feasible fundraiser. Ailynne has put together a planning document to start this process. Working Group suggested perhaps working with the community housing task team on this project. Alan raised concerns about the housing task team's perception of this fundraiser. Board discussed the intention of this project to raise awareness and educate which could help the community create livable spaces. Alan will reach out to the housing task team and report back.

Treasure Hunt

Finishing up its last days on Allison's property. Weather has been challenging for participants and income has been slightly lower than in past years. Allison enjoys putting on this event.

Book Sale

Alan is taking the lead on this sale. Working Group is considering a pricing structure that changes throughout the day to avoid people taking huge boxes of books in the morning.

Barn Dance

There is a planning meeting coming up this week with other partner organizations. Allison will attend.

Red Sox Raffle

Ticket sales have brought in almost \$1500 so far. Sale will end at town meeting where a winner will be drawn.

Solar Working Group Report- Allison

Breaker panels are continuing to flip off on sunny days and it is reducing energy production. Managing this situation requires close monitoring and a high ladder to get to the roof. Working Group has reached out to electrician Eric Bornemann about fixing the problem and making a few simplifications to the system. Estimated cost would be around \$500. Board agreed this is a project that should happen so Allison will follow through with Eric. Susan O is confident there are grants that could cover much of this and will look into that.

National Library Week- Susan O.

National Library Week is April 7-13

Board discussed whether we should do anything to mark this or not. Susan O. emphasized that there is no pressure for this. Board will think about it and make a decision at April meeting.

Town Meeting

Allison will monitor a library table at town meeting that has a trifold display, Red Sox raffle tickets and some solar eclipse information. Alan may help with set-up. Misty may be able to assist Allison. Ann will be ready to field any financial questions during Town Meeting. Red Sox raffle ticket will be drawn by Bill Lee (or another volunteer if that falls through).

Next Board meeting is set for April 1st

Ann moved to adjourn. Allison 2nded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:19pm.

