

Marlow Town Library Trustees' Meeting

Monday 12/18/2023

Present: Jill Sanders, Linda Fuerderer, Jeanne Kennedy and Jennifer Brown

Quorum declared, Ms Sanders called the meeting to order at 6:35

Secretary's Report:

The minutes from the previous meeting were read

Ms Fuerderer motioned to approve the minutes. Ms Sanders seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Treasurer's Report:

Ms Fuerderer presented the remaining budget.

She conducted a self audit, and concluded the library has \$128.62 remaining of the 2023 budget.

We are assuming the phone bill for 2023 to be around \$70.

She reported the Library had received the \$750 grant check from the Monadnock United Way for the baby and toddler program

She will put it in the checking account, as the monies must be spent by the end of January

Ms Fuerderer said the total to build the shed was \$2526.49.

She will reimburse Ms Brown for the building materials charged to her Hamshaw account.

Ms Brown reported there were over 100 Facebook likes for the photo of the shed she posted.

Ms Fuerderer reported the town has requested the library return \$293 the auditors said we underspent in 2022.

Our paperwork shows we were \$19.79 under budget for 2022

She spoke with the auditors who suggested she work it out with the town office, as the amount was too small for them to bother with.

Ms Fuerderer will meet with the Town Administrator.

Ms Sanders motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report, as written. Ms Kennedy seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Librarian's Report:

Ms Brown told the Board she had a couple requests for regular lectures, specifically the history of the middle east due to the Isreal / Hammas war.

It's a lot of work to find lecturers, and vet them for bias. Our proposed 2024 budget doesn't currently reflect these extra hours.

NH Humanities has dozens of program we can host for free. - we would agree to pay \$.65/mile to the presenters for their travel time.

We should aim to collaborate with another group(s) to help offset our costs.

Ms Brown showed the Board a proposed budget for 2024.

It features an increase:

To give our staff (except the Director) raises, as the current pay rate is embarrassing.

Fund the Baby and Toddler class for a full year.

Some savings comes from a reduction in both the programming and book budgets.

Technology budget is also increased, as we need a new color laser printer, and a full compliment of toner.

Toner is expensive, but necessary, and should last a couple of years.

Ms Brown reported the new budget reflected per capita spending of \$30.42.

The average NH library spending is \$48.75 per capita, \$18.36 more than our proposed budget.

Ms Brown shared the statistics for 2023 (excluding December numbers)

Patrons visits, checkouts, computer use, program visits are up from 2022

NHDBC, ILL, and visits for "other" reasons were down.

There were 569 programming visits in 2022.

This works out to an average cost of \$2.46 each patron per program.

The average cost per book check out is \$2.64.

Programming:

Ms Brown told the Board 2023 programming had ended, as there was little interest during the holiday season.

New programming will begin in January 2024 with "Cabin Fever" programming – small, drop in type classes.

Becky Sharp wants to teach a class in wet felting

We need to use the rest of the Mozzarella curd

Ms Sanders closed the meeting at 8:05pm

Next meeting Monday January 15th @ 6:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanne Kennedy