

Meeting Acushnet Public Library Board of Trustees

Tuesday, January 31, 2023 at 4 p.m.

In attendance: Jennifer Alves, Chair

Diane Ferreira

Nancy Frances

Joan Howland, Secretary

Stephen Reale

Dina St. Pierre, Library Director

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Secretary's Report

A motion was made by Nancy to accept the secretary's report from December 8, 2022. The motion was seconded by Stephen. All voted in favor.

Budget Report

The budget is 59.1% spent which is appropriate for this time in the fiscal year. The Eversource bill was the highest of the year to date but still on track for the winter. There was a major clog in the public toilet and Quick Flow came to fix it causing an unexpected expense in the Building and Grounds line. Nothing has been spent in the travel line because most meetings have still been on Zoom. Stephen moved to accept the budget report and Diane seconded. All voted in favor.

Old Business

Discussed was the final draft of the budget (after two revisions). This is the budget (2 versions) that will be presented to the Selectmen on February 7th and FINCOM on February 8th. Due to a re-organization by the Town Administrator, the library custodian may be moved to a town hall position. In Version A the \$12,000 for the Custodian's salary would be removed from the salary line and redistributed to some of the operating expenses. This would leave the \$12,000 in the budget so that the MAR would still be met. In Version B, the \$12,000 goes toward the salary for increasing the Children's Room Assistant from a part time to a fulltime position. Stephen moved to accept the budgets and Nancy seconded. All voted in favor.

New Business

The 2022 annual report is complete and the highlights section is back. This includes the pavilion on the back lawn, the Friends of the Library sponsored programs, and the library becoming fine-free. The library statistics have not reached the 2019 numbers but there was a 20% increase from 2021 to 2022. Nancy moved to accept the annual report and Diane seconded. All voted in favor.

Some of the lighting fixtures in the community room have been flashing intermittently, similar to a strobe light. It was decided by the board to purchase three light units from Northeast Electrical for approximately \$225 each plus shipping to have them on hand and replace the fixtures as needed. Nancy moved to purchase these lights and Stephen seconded. All voted in favor.

Director's Report

The library has been short-staffed since December, but they have been working hard to keep up. Dina has done school visits and has resumed story time. Sandra is doing Lego programs and drop-in crafts. 50,000 minutes have been logged on Beanstack. Movie matinees are back. A morning session of the readers group has been added. Two adult craft classes will be offered which will be paid for by the Owens Trust. The library is again participating in the Boston Bruins pajama drive from 2/1/2023 to 3/31/2023. The Friends have funded the purchase of some DVDs and a puzzle table. December statistics increased over last year, including program attendance and use of the study rooms.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be on Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. Stephen moved to adjourn at 4:30 p.m. and Diane seconded. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan M. Howland

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