



Brunswick Community Library

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

October 17, 2023 - 6:00 pm

Attendees: Alix Duggan, Jennifer Gordon, Sara Hopkins, Fred Wobrock, Matt Perfetti, Jen Mainello, Jennifer Shatz, Kevin Mainello

Excused: Andrea Wedler

Absent: Therese Goyette

Call to order 6:06 pm

Approval of September 2023 minutes

Alix Duggan motioned to approve the September 2023 minutes; seconded by Matt Perfetti. All in favor; motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Andrea Wedler excused from this meeting; the September 2023 Treasurer's Report will be presented in November.

Director's Report

The full statistics were distributed via email. 7,659 items were checked out from the library. Approximately 978 people attended the library's programs. The count (from the door counter) indicated 437 attendees for Fall Fest, but the actual number was likely higher.

October/November/December events: Sandra Monihan (October 6); kids clothing swap (October 13-14, 16); Spooky Paint Party (October 24); Planning for Medicare (October 25); Indian Music Workshop (October 21, 28; November 7 and 14); Forest Friends with artist Ellen Graf (November 4); *Neighbor, I Need You* author talk by Ellen Graf (December 16). This was the first time trying a three-day clothing swap; it was very busy on Friday and Saturday.

Committee Reports

Buildings & Grounds:

Honor Garden engraved paver project: Kevin relayed a message from Tom Mahoney's son. The goal is to get the whole Honor Garden released by spring and to open it as a major fundraiser at Garden Day. Brick samples circulated for the board to review. Board members voted for Wheatfield from Bricks R Us. The brick company can help us develop a fundraising platform and design a flier. Jennifer Shatz reached out to Walsh's regarding the plaque and the cost of the plaque was prohibitive; she suggested we look at other vendors, e.g. Etsy. The memorial bench is not weathering well and has begun to rust; feedback also indicates that it is too lightweight and does not feel stable. We are going to look into getting a polywood bench, the cost of which will be covered by the donations.

Siding samples for 2024 construction grant: Siding color samples (Mastic, CertainTeed) circulated for board to review. For grant funding, we need to provide quotes before we make any siding purchases.

Annual Appeal/Fundraising:

Jeff Snow Concert Fundraiser on December 1st at 6:30pm: Planning for the event is well in hand. Raffle baskets are coming in; all need to be received by mid-November for display prior to the event.

Annual Appeal letter review: Stuffing party to be held on November 2nd at 6:30 pm. Jennifer Shatz is editing the letter. There are 5,000+ letters to prepare. Kids are welcome. Dinner will be provided.

Human Resources:

No report.

Nominating:

Installation of Virginia Anderson: Virginia Anderson is the candidate for vacant board position. She has been a Brunswick resident for 11 years and a frequent library visitor. Her mother was a librarian in Grafton. She has connections with the local Girl Scout troop which can help the library, as well as ideas about future library workshops. Kevin Mainello has her resume. As Virginia Anderson was in attendance, she was asked to step out of the room for board discussion and vote. Sara Hopkins noted that Virginia is already an established library volunteer and has served on other boards. The nominating committee made the motion to install Virginia Anderson to fill the seat vacated by Kelley Triscari; Alix Duggan seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carried unanimously. Alix Duggan will get a handbook for Virginia and arrange to put her on the committee list after the meeting.

Invitation to new candidates for 2023 & 2024: Other candidates should be invited to the November meeting for a January installation. Kevin Mainello will reach out. One candidate has been informally interviewed, but the nominating committee will conduct a more formal interview prior to the installation. As of now, we are set for 2023, but we need as many candidates for 2024 as possible. Alix Duggan will add the contact information for prospects to Google Drive.

Technology:

No report.

Old Business

Town Budget: We have not yet heard about our new budget request, but did receive our quarterly check.

New Business

Trees planted by Nancy Farrell: Nancy Farrell asked if she could plant two apple trees in honor of her sister. They've been planted and she is providing the care for them. Matt Perfetti inquired whether we have extra mulch, but we do not, as it was all sold at Garden Day.

Memorial Bench for Tom Mahoney: See discussion under Buildings and Grounds Committee Report.

Request from Save Burdett Birth Center Coalition: They asked if they could put a lawn sign in the front of the library. Jennifer Shatz advised us to decline because endorsement of causes is against library policy. They can use the library space for discussion. Alix Duggan noted that the town government is endorsing them and has passed a resolution to support their coalition. However, this is not town property; the library is a separate entity. The board agrees on the following compromise: the coalition can put pamphlets in the common area entryway or on the table where community information is shared.

December library events: December board party to be held as potluck at the library. There will be a Polar Express party (including reading of the story and airing of the movie) for kids in December. Donations of gumdrops, whipped cream, graham crackers, hot cocoa packets, and candy canes are needed. A book wreath program is planned for adults. The library will feature the giving tree again this year. A grown-up clothing swap will also be held in December.

Next Town Council meeting: November 9, 2023 at 7:00 pm - Matt Perfetti attending

Next Board of Trustees meeting: November 21, 2023 at 6:00 pm

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm as moved by Jennifer Shatz; seconded by Matt Perfetti. All in favor; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Gordon