



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING AGENDA July 16, 2024 - 6:00pm

The Brunswick Community Library provides access to life-long learning, resources, engaging activities, and an inclusive community space for all.

Call to Order: 6:04

Attendees: Virginia Anderson, Alix Duggan, Therese Goyette, Annie Metzger, Matthew Perfetti, Yusuf Silk, Andrea Wedler, Fred Wobrock, Debra Zaffuts, Sara Hopkins

Absent: Grace Kosinski, Jennifer Shatz

Excused:

Approval of June 2024 meeting minutes: Motion to approve by Alix; seconded by Andrea. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report was sent in full via email.

- Approval of June 2024 Treasurer's Report (*Finance Committee approved documents online*) Motion to approve by Finance Committee; seconded by Deb Zaffuts. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.
- \$650 made at first town concert 50/50 of the season, which is the highest take Andrea has seen.
- We have gotten an increase in donations lately; at least \$325 can be confirmed as related to the recent name change clinic and attendant publicity.
- Everything is plugging along as normal.

Director's Report was sent in full via email

- Adult clothing swap, Tinkergarten, Herb Club all happened.
- Summer reading has started and is going very well; lots of positive feedback on logging days versus logging hours (Sara lost count for how many people said they preferred it!) . UHLS gave a mini Summer Reading grant of \$240, which helps offset all of the prizes that people are earning.
- Coming up in August: Kids Yoga, Health Literacy, Reptile Show, Herb Club Foraging
- LASNY/Empire Justice Center Name Change Clinic:
 - There were a total of 51 attendees; only 12 people were actually here to be served by the lawyers, as they needed to sign up for one-on-one time slots with the legal help, but it was the best accidental party the library has ever thrown. The County Sherriff did send an officer who watched from his car for the afternoon. The people who attended for legal help stayed a long time, and were very comfortable, chatting and hanging out. In the weeks leading up to the clinic, after the posters went up, Sara and her staff members noticed that there were many more LGBT folks that they did not recognize come use the library, since the publicity made it plain that this is a welcoming place for them. We are thrilled that the library reached a demographic that we had not been reaching previously.
 - The library received zero actual complaints from Brunswick community members; the town received 19. There were 4 very loud complainers at the last Town Board meeting, but there were MANY more people there in support of the library. NYS law prohibits discrimination, and our hosting of this clinic is very much in line with the law, and we could potentially get in trouble if we were asked to host and refused. Apparently we have started a wave for LASNY and hosting name change clinics; other libraries are already getting clinics set up and LASNY has a large waitlist.

- The whole board would like to thank Sara for her professionalism throughout this entire situation; her handling of the town board meeting was great, and Alix recommends we all watch the recording. [Town Board Meeting 07-11-24](#) - on the video, she starts her regular monthly report at 10:40 minutes; the comments start at 56 minutes. The library does get financial support from the town. In this situation, the town did not give us moral support. The town employees and board members distanced themselves from the library (rightly, as we are intellectually independent), and this, while disappointing, actually opened the floodgates of support from the community. The 19 complaint calls to the town turned into hundreds of new supporters for our library. There were a couple of calls at the Town Board meeting to defund the library, and we want to hear the criticisms. During and after the Town Board meeting, Alix invited the group of complainers to come to our library meetings and to join our board, to which three replied no, and one replied that he would only come if he could begin by being in charge. We are inclusive, we welcome all opinions, and we would welcome a wider diversity of opinions on the board. Alix hopes that the relationship with the Town can become stronger; it feels a bit tenuous after the town's lack of support in this instance. Alix plans to attend the next town board meeting to follow up and find out what the town will do about the calls for the library to be defunded; she is prepared in case the complainants pursue the defunding of the library.
- Let the record show that we *do* vet our library's programs; not all programs are automatically allowed. Any group that wants to can use the study room, but programs that may result in hate speech or discrimination are denied.
- A community member joined us for the meeting, but declined to make a public comment beyond saying that she is just here in case any complainers came, to be a supporter.
- Matt P draws attention to just how underfunded the library is, compared to others of our size, in counterbalance to the comments at the town meeting that were claiming that the library is a misuse of public funds. We are getting just under \$14 per capita in funding, whereas comparable libraries are at \$60 per capita. We are woefully short, and are doing a LOT with what we have.
- Libraries are for more than just books. State minimum requirements include running programs and collaborating with other organizations. If we don't do that, we could lose our library charter. If a library's annual report shows that you aren't meeting the minimum standards, you go into counseling to help you reach them. Alix thinks that we should provide a copy of the standards to the town; Matt thinks we should provide an annotated version. We need to help the town to become a spokesperson for us.
- Monthly Community Message: Our programs are inclusive for ALL. We serve EVERY member of the community. Mention the Reptile Program 8/2 and a Citizens' Preparedness Corp training 8/13, run by National Guard and Homeland Security, and the Health Literacy Series.

New Business:

- Subaru has a "Share the Love" program, and a local Subaru employee and baseball dad was talking to Matt in his role with the baseball program about Brunswick Baseball getting in on the Subaru program, and Matt said, I wouldn't be doing my due diligence if I didn't also try to get this for the library. It is a match program, where \$50-250 per car purchased during the Share the Love period goes to a donation to local nonprofits, and the period is November through January. We aren't clear on how many local nonprofits are going to be included in this program, but it could be several, or it could be one of four national nonprofits. The proceeds would be divided over the nonprofits, with the car buyers able to designate which nonprofit their donation goes to, or allow Subaru to share out the

proceeds with the whole group of nonprofits. Sara and Alix went to the Subaru dealership on Hoosick St. to meet with them today, to tell them about the library and its programs. We have to fill out some paperwork to get involved. The donations have to be used for programs, not administration. There seems to be no real downside to this. We are supposed to market this as part of our involvement, and we should, to make sure that vehicle purchasers choose the library to designate for the donation. Matt notes that we need to check the whole board membership to make sure that none of the board members have family that are employed by Subaru - this was done and all members stated that they and their immediate family do not work for Subaru.

- Application for the "I Love My Librarian" Award: Deb Z will take the lead on submitting the application. The deadline is September. There is also a "The Best Small Library in America" award, but we missed the deadline for that one - remember to look it up for next year!

Committee Reports:

- Building and Grounds
 - Garden & Backyard update: we have a family interested in donating a couple fruit trees in the fall; Alix will follow up. Andrea donated a playhouse that's in the backyard; we plan to repaint it the blue of our logo.
 - AC maintenance update: The AC has been working, but not well. Crisafulli came out on Monday. It was leaking coolant. It is now repaired "for a while" but our unit is from 1998 and we should budget for a new unit because the parts are becoming obsolete. He thinks we have 1 to 3 years with this unit. Andrea requests that Sara ask Crisafulli for an estimate so we can begin to plan. Virginia would like a second opinion, to see if we really do need to get a new furnace. Matt asks how our efficiency is, and says that they track the efficiency of the unit and he will look at it after the meeting. Alix proposes a 2025/26 construction grant for a whole efficiency upgrade for the new furnace and insulation
 - Building Cleaning update: Two workers and a supervisor from ARC came for the first time. They were lovely and worked hard.. Sara is happy to have the community connection, and the more reasonable price.
 - Sara is still trying to get a third estimate for upholstery and carpet cleaning, and has been ghosted by multiple companies. The two she has are about \$100 different; one of the two came recommended by another library due to their use of a low-moisture cleaning system that is better for books. The building committee moves to hire Millicare to clean the carpets; Yusuf seconds. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.
- Fundraising Events / Annual Appeal
 - Honor Garden update from Fred: Second order of 10+ bricks has been placed, expecting to see them sometime in August. There are further brick orders in the house, waiting to reach the order minimum. The bricks are here and maybe need to be put somewhere people can see them; Sara will ponder on it.
 - Fall Fest update: Moose on the Loose is booked. A few artists are booked, as well as CCE Nutritionist Felicia. Annie offered to bring some chickens. Virginia can get a face painter. Sara put something online to ask for applications, but only got one. Deb's husband is in a trombone ensemble, and he has asked the band leader if they could come. It would be good to have some garden bricks installed by then. Matt asked if Subaru could bring a car. Matt will reach out to the great ladies at Stewarts to see if they will come. Deb proposed that maybe we could ask the town to come (as they have in the past) to have an informational booth about town services. Virginia will talk to Cindy at Engles about donuts.
- Human Resources: Jenn is not here, so we will hold off on these updates until she is here next month.
 - Policy updates; UHLS Equity Challenge progress

- Nominating
 - Possible Candidates for 2025 Board positions. Annie mentioned Meredith Lee-Clark. Andrea mentioned Laura Perfetti. Matt mentioned his new neighbors.
- Technology
 - Laptop purchase proposal: Alix sent an email with a few suggestions, and the tech committee just needs to pick one. Matt asks, what are the software requirements from UHLS for their profiles that they set up on laptops. Sara will forward Alix's list to UHLS to find out what they suggest, and then based on their suggestions, two will be purchased. Once we replace the laptops to a baseline of 4, we will replace one per year to keep it at 4.

Old Business:

- Recreating the Friends of the Brunswick Library: Alix is looking for someone to take charge of the recreation of the Friends of the Brunswick Library. She thinks we should have an ad hoc committee.
- "Library Membership": What does that mean? Does it mean you have a library card? Does it mean you hang out here? Do we want to *create* a membership association? Would a donation be required? Would it be volunteer hours? In East Greenbush, if you are a member of the Friends of the Library, you can use their library passes even if you don't live in the town; Clifton Park does the same.
- Can we get the folks who can't be on the board due to residency requirements to be the folks in charge of the Friends of the Library? (Brittany Dewire, Carol Roszbosom)

Public Comments: none

Next Brunswick Town Council meeting: August 8, 2024 at 7pm (*Grace Kosinski attending*)

Next Library Board of Trustees meeting: August 20, 2024 at 6 pm

Adjourn: Alix moves to adjourn at 7:50; Andrea seconds, all in favor, motion carries unanimously