

**Walpole Town Library
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2023**

Present (By roll call attendance): Amy Howard (Chair), Kathy Nerrie (Treasurer), Susan Johnson, Bill Ranauro, Tim Lester, Sarah Mann, Erin Bowen, Jean Kobeski (Recording Secretary), Jane Malmberg (Library Director)

Absent: Gail LaHaise, Cheryl Mayberry, Select Board Liaison

Visitor: Julie Rios

Amy Howard brought the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m. in the Hubbard Community Room.

Approval of Minutes: Amy moved to accept the minutes of the June 13, 2023 meeting. Kathy seconded and all voted in favor. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Kathy emailed the Treasurer's Report to the trustees for review prior to the meeting. She did note an error in the report. The A and W Hubbard amount should read \$8265. On the Library Trust Fund we are \$865 short of what we budgeted but it may increase before the end of the year.

Review of Bills: Jane emailed the bills to the trustees prior to the meeting and reported that the library now has a subscription to the Boston Globe. Sarah moved to accept the Treasurer's Report and Bills. Tim seconded, and all voted in favor. Motion carried.

Old Business

Chimney and Front Door Repair Status: Jane reported that the chimney is almost finished. The cap is not done but should come in any day now and will then be installed. The door is finished. There will be some money left over and will be used to repair the ceiling in Jane's office before the end of the year. Tim said Servpro should be called in to check for mold and remediate before repairing. Amy suggested calling Barry for the repair. Jane said she would have Houghton check for any lighting damage and talk to the Select Board for a recommendation for contractors.

Susan asked what was done with the old door. Adam still has it. Kathy may have a use for it. If she decides to use it, she will contact the builder and pick it up from him.

Tree: The dead tree outside Jane's office was cut down. There is (fire)wood left, which will be offered to the public.

New Business

Town Budget: Jane presented the budget she has prepared for 2023. Budgets for next year need to be level funded, so Jane showed how she was able to rearrange or reduce some of the amounts from the 2022 budget to address the rising costs of electricity and fuel oil and stay within the same bottom line.

The trustees discussed the possibility of needing a warrant article to repair the mortar on the north wall and concrete on the front landing of the library. Jane said she would try to get a price quote for this before she meets with the Select Board.

Jane will work up a preliminary library budget for discussion at the October meeting.

Julie Rios entered the meeting at 5:00.

New Sign Discussion: Jane and Julie agreed that the new sandwich sign outside the front of the library has been very successful with its messaging. After a brief discussion about the purchase of a new sign for the library, it was decided that, at this time, it may be unnecessary. The banner, sandwich sign, and sign displaying library hours seem to adequately communicate library activities to the community. Kathy suggested tabling the idea of the new sign and revisiting it in a year. Trustees agreed. The old sign to the left of the steps will be removed.

Appreciation Event: The trustees agreed that the event should be a dinner like last year. Trustees will bring hors d'oeuvres. Amy will check with Town Hall to see if either November 9 or 16 is available and Kathy will call the caterer once she gets a date from Amy.

Other Business

Operations:

1. Jane reported that people are enthused about The Big Read. They have distributed over 80 copies of *The Bear*.
2. Julie continues to research North Walpole history. She is now looking for photos.
3. Jane will attend the New England Library Association conference October 15 & 16.

Friends of the Library: Plans for the book sale are going well. This year there will be no Friday night preview. Instead the first two hours of the sale on Saturday will serve this purpose.

The Friends will be replacing a few members of the board whose terms end this year.

Library Challenge: The trustees, Jane, and Julie discussed recent concerns about book displays and topics in the children's room of the library. Each of us reviewed and supports the library's mission statement and policies regarding intellectual freedom and challenged and controversial materials. We discussed ways that our displays might better meet the needs of our patrons and Amy stated we should develop a display policy.

Adjournment: With no further business to discuss, Amy adjourned the meeting at 6:12.

The next meeting will be October 10, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jean Kobeski, Recording Secretary

** These minutes are in draft form until approved at the October 10, 2023 meeting.