

## Hooper Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Meeting called to order 5:33 p.m.

Present: Joni Cormier, Sue Nadeau, Helen Dalbeck, Marissa Madej, Annette Beers, Amy Owens, Seth Andrews, Will Grossman, Steven Dalessio, Cheryl Mayberry and Nicole Adams

Board Update – Annette Beers accepted the Board position and was officially welcomed. She will be sworn in by the Selectman’s Office as soon as possible. Joni has accepted a greater commitment in her professional role and announced that she would like to wrap up as Board Chair ideally in January.

Steve D. addressed the conversation regarding Hooper building upgrades and shared he is consulting with Andrew Dey for the renovation. Andrew will be scheduled to meet with the Board to listen to our ideas and thoughts.

Will expressed a concern that the Board doesn’t know Andrew’s background. Sue requested that Steve send out Andrew’s resume to Board members. Joni inquired as to what the “Eloise binder” is containing notes and drawings. Seth asked that these be shared with the Board for purposes of learning more about the history.

Joni asked Steve how the Board should go about making a change to the by-laws reference wording for Scholarship committee representation on the Board. Will has stepped forward to be a participant with Scholarship reporting as well as share at board meetings. The Trustees will need to approve once this is completed.

A question was raised about the amount budgeted for summer woodworking camp. Helen presented the budget. Marissa proposed adding \$1000 to the Program line item. Suggestion: Steve asked for a wish list to provide opportunities for acquiring sources for items and/or to approach Friends of Hooper Institute for funds. There was some discussion as to whether or not to decrease the Scholarship amount to \$20K. Helen offered to make revisions discussed and email them to the Board before the Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> Budget Review with the town.

Reports –

Secretary’s report presented by Joni in Emma’s absence. Amy motioned to approve, Seth seconded. All approved.

Treasurer’s Report & Trust Update – Amy presented the bank account Oct. balance as \$22,121.04. Education and scholarships \$73,704.95. Seth motioned to approve, Will seconded. All approved.

Director's Report – Helen read and shared the report as handed to the Board. Winter Fun Day will be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in Feb. which falls 2/10/24. Marissa shared the educator updates.

FoHi – Helen spoke to Becky Sethi and shared on her behalf. The high school work program benefits mostly from FoHi funds. Helen met with Becky to reconcile the account and take care of administrative needs.

Conservation Committee – Nicole shared news of plans to clean up around the cranberry bog dam which is down below the Hooper and Community Gardens.

Strategic Planning – Joni updated members on how many responses to the Google doc questions and as there were few she encouraged all to complete this. There was agreement to hold a separate strategic planning meeting in January. Date tbd.

Hooper Bike Trails – there was much discussion and sharing about the Hooper forest bike trail proposal by Rob Westover to the Board. He has not responded to emails from the Board. There were concerns shared and all agreed to take the time to draft a strategic plan that benefits all parties for sustainability and recreation.

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Nadeau