

Hooper Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 13th , 2024

Meeting called to order 5:37 p.m.

Present: Sue Nadeau, Helen Dalbeck, Annette Beers, Amy Owens, Seth Andrews, Will Grossman, Steven Dalessio, Peggy Schirrer and Nicole Adams

Board Update – Peggy discussed the need for representation needed for the scholarship committee with the Board appointing one (1) member. Will would like to be a representative on the scholarship board. They still need a chair person.

Bylaws amendment to change the requirement that the member on the scholarship committee not be required to be chairperson. Peggy says that we need a proper amendment to change the bylaws. Will requested that Peggy send this in writing with a copy to the board.

Will's email address was confirmed. Peggy agreed to do that. Will will re-send the amendment to Peggy and Steve. Steve mentioned that it really could be as simple as stating the old bylaw followed by the amended bylaw. The board will vote on it at the next meeting.

Andrew Dey is to be scheduled on the board's agenda for the March 6th meeting to meet with the Board to listen to our ideas and thoughts and discuss the needed Hooper Building renovations.

Sue voiced an idea as to the chairperson position. She would like to suggest that she mentor other board members so that members can take turns facilitating the meetings. Amy mentioned that she thought it was a great idea and thanked Sue for thinking of it.

Reports –

Secretary's report presented by Sue in Emma's absence. Annette motioned to approve, Amy seconded. All approved.

Amy offered the treasurer's position to Annette. TIME OUT FOR ZOOM SET UP at 6:10 pm. Meeting resumed at 6:20.

Annette accepted and was sworn in as Treasurer. Sue motioned to accept Annette and Amy seconded. Annette was voted in.

Treasurer's Report & Trust Update – Annette presented the bank account January balance as \$22,192.70. Maintenance-\$179,733.23. Nicole motioned to approve, Seth seconded. All approved.

Peggy stated that the Market average for three years for the Education/Scholarship Trust is \$4,143,356.89. 3% of the average is \$124,300.71. Our quarterly draw will be \$31,075.18.

Director's Report – Helen read and shared the report as handed to the Board. The Town Report was emailed to the Board. Justin Cassarino was sick so was unable to meet with Helen. Potential programming with all grades-School wide presentations. Outdoor Education Fund to pay for the owl presentations. Garden days at the school with Helen planting, etc., was discussed. Seth asked about the owls and asked if VINS could be considered. Helen agreed.

Helen has an idea to perhaps split the educator position by 1 at the primary school and 1 at the elementary school to split the 26 hours by 12 for primary and 14 for elementary. Amy brought up that perhaps we should increase the hours to attract more applicants. Helen stated that it could certainly be kept at one position if the person was able to do that. Sue stated that she knows of someone who is interested that would like to apply.

Steve asked about curriculum meeting the national standards. Helen says that since this is supplemental and augmenting, it has not been an issue.

The Scholarship Committee had three renewals of terms. They are Liz Collingsworth, Joe Coneeny and Carol Malnati. Holly Gowdy, the current fourth member, has one more year to serve.

Camp-1 week will be for the 1st and 2nd graders and 1 week for the 3rd and 4th graders. Helen's daughter, Chloe, has offered to direct the camps. She is a 2nd grade teacher. Helen will ask her for a resume. Helen will organize with the high school to obtain volunteers with the camps. She will need adult volunteers, too. Steve will be doing the woodworking. Helen will contact 4-H for possible volunteers- for farming, etc.

CSA-Scheduling done by Helen.

Andrew Dey is working on grant ideas. Energy Audit-Margaret Dillon is applying for a grant and putting together a budget. There are ample funds to fix the building. It will be a good positive change for the building.

FoHi –Helen read the balances in the checking and savings accounts.

The savings as of January 31, 2024 was \$44,984.35 and the checking was \$10,269.65.

Conservation Commission – No report on the dam. Equipment will be brought in late summer or early fall. Someone drove a truck on the rail trail so an idea came up to put up signs and perhaps create a school education program for the history, ecology and uses to spread awareness of the use of the trail. There will be a presentation in March by Wendy and Will Grossman and Trails Committee which will be open to the public on the Rail Trail Development.

Strategic Planning-Joni-Google Drive-establish how to begin-form a subcommittee. Seth mentioned that he felt strategic planning was important, however, he felt that the priorities should be the building

renovations and the educator position. Steve felt we should hold off until spring or June to discuss the strategic plan.

Old news- Recruitment for a Board Chair. Sue mentions that if anyone needs a job description to please ask her.

New news-Building upgrades with Andrew Dey and invite him to the March 6th meeting. Educator positions-an ongoing conversation.

Sue reports that the Dahlia sale will be May 11th. She has a sub-committee for propagation, advertising and plantings.

Helen to keep us posted on Andrew and process. Helen asked Seth to help with that and employment and he accepted.

Will requested that the March 6th meeting be in person. Helen will contact the town to arrange the meeting place.

Annette motioned for the meeting to be adjourned, Will seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 5th at 5:30 p.m at the Walpole Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Beers, Treasurer