

Brown Memorial Library Trustees Meeting 2/21/24 Minutes

Meeting brought to order at 6:32 p.m. at Brown Memorial Library

Present: Laura Beaton, Robin Steiner, Jason Grey, Devin Pendleton, Caitlin Banazak, Beth Von Beren, Ellen Barselle

Approve January minutes:

Devin motioned to approve the January minutes as written, Beth seconded and all were in favor.

Directors Report:

Ellen spoke about possibilities for new online services to offer patrons; MANGO, a language learning tool for adults and children. Subscription cost beginning at \$1,000 per year. Another option is programs for a variety of classes including courses on artistic and other classes such as crafts, crocheting, paper making, etc. Another possibility is a tool for counting people using the library.

Programs

Sue Moss Pottery for Kids, March 9

Art program on Norman Rockwell, March 18

Edible plants and mushroom foraging, March 20

Easter egg hunt March 30th

April 8th: Eclipse Party

April 10th: program highlighting Mental Health Awareness Month

April 15: Joel Banazak, geologist, will do a talk on groundwater and wells

May 13: Kevin Martin, Big Trees of Northern New England

Treasurer's Report:

Jason has requested the 1st quarter appropriation from the town.

A discussion of our budget occurred, with the board talking about needs of the library, such as a new carpet and the virtual classes and course opportunities we could offer patrons. Dividends of around \$2,000 from our Schwab investment account have accrued, and Jason motioned to transfer those dividends into our special projects account for future use. Beth seconded, and the motion passed. Last year we spent

more than \$17,000 of our special projects fund for heat pumps, and prior to that we used the fund to pay for energy saving measures such as LED lights and weatherizing the building.

Strategic Plan Update

A committee of trustees including Maria, Beth and Laura met earlier this month to discuss moving forward with our vision for the Library for the next 3-5 years. We discussed ways to get patrons involved in helping us determine how the library could better serve our community.

Things to focus on are: get our 5 year vision on paper, learn how to better serve our patrons, connect to the community, businesses and nonprofit organizations, better utilize our building, collaborate with community groups, create more services for teens and young adults, create a Library for Things, where household and garden items, tools, sporting equipment, etc. could be loaned out. Grant writing and fundraising need to be more prominent in our future as we grow our services to meet our needs and achieve our goals.

Town Meeting

Free childcare is being offered at the Library from 6:45 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on the evening of Town Meeting, March 13.

Meetings of the Brown Memorial Library Trustees are held the 3rd Wednesday of every month. The next meeting is March 20 at 6:00 p.m. at the Brown Memorial Library.