

Chilmark Free Public Library Board of Trustees

Minutes from April 12, 2023 meeting, held on Zoom

Present: Trustees Janet Weidner (Chair), Jane Kaplan, Candy Shweder, Library Director Ebba Hierta

Meeting called to order at 11:01

Minutes:

The minutes of 3/16/23 were moved, seconded and approved as amended.

The minutes of 3/8/23 were moved, seconded and approved as amended.

Communications:

Ebba contacted town hall and offered the library meeting room as a venue for Warren Doty's retirement party. The offer was accepted. The party will be on Friday April 28 at 12:00.

Chairman's report:

Janet gave a heartfelt shout-out to the library and bid the trustees farewell. She has served on the board for 15 years.

Director's report:

Circulation has made tremendous increases compared to this time last year.

The Friends of the Library have automated the donor base and have added a "click to donate" button on the fundraising letter that will go out in May.

Financial report:

We are in the red on the office supply line of the budget (new inkjets), but we have surplus in other areas so it will all come out evenly at the end of the fiscal year.

Old Business:

1. The last three sets of minutes that were erased by the computer glitch have been reviewed. 5/12/22 remains the same. The minutes for 6/9/22 were moved, seconded and approved as amended. (unanimous). The minutes for 7/21/22 were moved, seconded and approved as amended. (unanimous).
2. Staffing update- We still need one more person to work for 3 hours on Mondays (in the summer). We will need to advertise.
3. CLAMS migration to new system has been going well and glitches are being worked out.

New Business:

1. Town counsel looked at the updated policy and suggested one more sentence. The trustees discussed this and came up with an alternative which will go back to town counsel. The trustees unanimously moved to accept this as an amendment to the program policy subject to approval by town counsel. The amendment reads as follows: The library director shall consult with the library board of trustees and keep it informed throughout the process of compiling the summer program series.

2. Pending program request-Alan Dershowitz sent a letter to Ebba and town counsel about speaking this summer. There was intense debate about having him speak after the bullying, intimidation and lies that were said by him about the library to the national media last summer. It was decided that he will be offered a spot to speak on Tuesday, June 20, a day that the library is closed. This will cut down on the interference his talk may cause to regular patrons. In response to his request we propose a lecture on 6/20 for him to speak about his new book, Dershowitz on Killing: How the Law Decides Who Shall Live and Who Shall Die. The entry will be restricted to the first 25 people to appear (as per his agreement last summer). The talk will be held in the meeting room at 5:00 PM. So moved, seconded and was voted on unanimously.

3. Andrew Dugno, an Aquinnah resident and parent of two Chilmark School students has been chosen as the new Assistant Director and Youth Services librarian. He is a former elementary school teacher (10 years) and Assistant teacher before that, also for 10 years. His appointment was moved, seconded and voted unanimously. He will start on May 2.

Next Meeting: Tentatively set for May 17th. The time TBA.

Meeting adjourned at 12:48.

DOCUMENTS:

Agenda for meeting 4/12/23

Director's report

Financial report

Minutes from 3/16/23 and 3/8/23

Minutes from 5/12/22, 6/9/22, and 7/21/22

Programming policy