CHILMARK FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY MINUTES 8/11/22

Trustees Meeting Minutes 8/11/22 Zoom

Present: Trustees Janet Weidner (Chair), Jane Kaplan and Candy Shweder; Library Director Ebba Hierta; Town Counsel Ron Rappaport; Members of the public Rick Shweder, Tom Ruimerman, Alan Dershowitz, Susan Murphy, Peter Ruimerman and Ben Heineman.

Meeting called to order at 11:02

Minutes: Approved as amended

Financial Report: not available but Ebba reported that all is on track

Communications: Many communications from all over the country concerning Mr. Dershowitz’ comments about the Chilmark Library.

Chair: After our last meeting Janet and Ebba had a good meeting with the School Superintendent Richie Smith, Head of School Susan Stevens and UIRSD Chair Alex Salop and new contract terms have been agreed to.

Director’s Report: No report at this time, statistics will come in at a later date.

New Business:

Mr. Dershowitz asked the library, in Mid-July, for a spot to speak during the summer. He was told there were no remaining openings. The summer schedule is set in the Spring. This is not the first time he has requested a speaking engagement long after the schedule has been set. The policy is very clear that the schedule is set in the Spring. After complaining to the press and on many media and claiming that he would sue us, he sent a letter of apology. Mr. Dershowitz expressed willingness to put aside hostilities if we acquiesced to one of three proposals. None of the proposals were accepted by the trustees, but the trustees voted unanimously to allow his letter to act as an application for him to speak next year (Spring or Summer).

Ron Rappaport said that Jim Malkin (chair of select board) stated that the town fully supports the library.

Susan Murphy (chair of the Friends of the Library) commented that the lecture series is sponsored by the Friends and the town doesn’t cover the costs.

Lenny Bell, a longtime summer resident has donated a beautiful painting by Margot Datz which will be placed in the Children’s room.

Old Business:

We had a complete crash of the computer system. We have pieced together a system that will work for the summer but we need a complete rehaul. We have a new IT consultant who is also working with the town. He will audit our system and give us a proposal of what we need. This will be done sometime in the Fall/Winter.

Pandemic protocols- It is hoped that after Labor Day the numbers will come down enough that we will make masks optional for browsing.

A motion was made and passed that we will allow the library to do that if the numbers are below the 40’s. The motion passed unanimously.

Custodial support- a position for the town has been advertised, but so far no one has answered the ad. We are limping along with town support.

School contract- The Trustees unanimously approved the new contract with Thursdays being the day that entire classes will come to the library.

Next meeting date: Thursday 9/8 11:00

Adjourned: 11:55

Documents:

Agenda for meeting 8/11/22

Minutes from Trustees meeting 6/9/22

Proposed school contract