

MINUTES

CHILMARK FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUSTEES' MEETING FEBRUARY 10, 2022

PRESENT: Trustees Candy Shweder (Chair), Janet Weidner and Jane Kaplan; Library Director Ebba Hierta, Library Assistant Director/Youth Services Librarian Caroline Drogin and Selectman Warren Doty.

Meeting called to order at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom.

Minutes: The minutes of the January 13, 2022 Board of Trustees' Meeting were moved, seconded and unanimously approved as amended.

Financial reports: There was nothing unusual to report concerning the financial report.

Communications: The Director received an email communication with follow up questions from the FinCom budget meeting with the library, from Marshall Carroll, asking what movie streaming service is used by the Library, how much it is costing, and noting that the New York public library discontinued using Kanopy in 2019 due to its high cost. The Director stated that she would respond to the email and send copies of her response to the Trustees. She explained that the Library is required by state law to spend a percentage of its annual budget on materials, and that she thinks that patrons should get those materials in the format that they want, which is now streaming services versus DVDs. During COVID, demand for streaming services increased and people turned increasingly to streaming as opposed to home cable services. At the budget meeting, Ebba had noted that the Library probably would add a Hoopla subscription to its existing streaming services, and that it already has Canopy, thus prompting the follow up questions. Hoopla does not duplicate Kanopy. Rather, it offers some popular Acorn products that Acorn won't provide to libraries, as well as audios and ebooks at rates that are less expensive than buying those items through Overdrive, and music, magazines, movies and tv shows. If mandated material funds are not spent on services such as Kanopy and Hoopla, they still must be spent on other materials, so discontinuing them will not save money.

Director's report: December circulation received an upward bump from the book sale, which still has items available for free. 85% of the offerings have been taken and items still are being taken. The remainder will probably be disposed of by the end of the month. This years' experience will probably lead to book sale materials being offered for longer periods of time for future sales.

All Island libraries have now returned to having in-person library circulation, but have paused live programming for children through the end of February. The programming issue will be revisited at the end of the month.

Public comments: The Director reviewed Library COVID protocols for school visits to the Library with Selectman Warren Doty. In January, there was a suspension of school visits to the Library, and no youth programs are being offered in any Island libraries in February. The Director explained that at one point in January, 10% of the school was out with COVID and no contact tracing was being conducted, as they could not keep up with the demand. At the end of January, 3 pupils and 1 staff member were out with COVID. There is not enough room for children to socially distance in the Library during school visits. The Library has no updated figures for February. The School librarian, without whom school visits cannot take place, has not been at work in February, and though the Director emailed the Principal to ask when the librarian will return, no response has been provided. The Director is hopeful that if she returns by the end of February, that visits can resume. The Library has a mask mandate, so that children visiting

the Library must wear masks. Half of the Library staff and 1/3rd of Library patrons are in the high-risk population for COVID. Under the Governor's decision to allow school committees to decide whether or not to end mask mandates in schools, the School Committee will consider the matter. But the Library mandate will still apply to school visits irrespective of whether the school mask mandate is lifted.

A call was received at Town Hall from the school Principal asking why children cannot go to the Library. As noted above, school visits were suspended in January due to COVID concerns and in February due to the absence of the School Librarian. However, children have been able, individually, to come to the Library and have been doing so.

Jim Finer will be gifting more than \$2,000 to the Library from his real estate sales profits. He had thought that he would participate in today's Zoom meeting, but apparently could not.

New business: The proposed new Adult Patron Conduct Policy was discussed. The Trustees moved, seconded and unanimously voted to adopt the policy as amended.
The FinCom budget meeting went well.

Old business: The proposed Collection Development Policy circulated for December's Trustees' meeting was discussed. The Trustees moved, seconded and unanimously voted to adopt the policy as amended.

The next meeting was scheduled for March 10, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. The meeting was adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

Documents:

Agenda for Trustees' Meeting Thursday, February 10, 2022

Minutes from Trustees' Meeting, January 13, 2022

Library Director's Report to the Trustees - February 10, 2022

Budget to Actual financial report from 7/1/21 through 1/31/22

Draft Adult Patron Conduct Policy

Draft Chilmark Free Public Library Collection Development Policy