

Chilmark Free Public Library - Board of Trustees meeting minutes
Wednesday, June 21, 2023 4 pm, at Chilmark Library meeting room

Present: Jane Kaplan (chair), Ebba Hierta, Candy Shweder, Kaila Allen-Posin, and Andrew Dubno

1. Meeting called to order on 4:02

2. Minutes:

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the minutes of 5/17 as amended.

3. Communications:

Donation offered in honor of Tracy Thorpe and her contributions to the library.

4. Library Director shared her experience fielding a threatening call from a concerned citizen regarding Alan Dershowitz's talk at the Chilmark Public Library planned for June 20th. Richard Selege of Seattle stated to Library Director that "[she] will pay the price" for violating freedom of speech. Library Director filed a police report, there was follow-up by the Chilmark Police and clarification by Mr. Selege that his language referred to legal action, not physical. There is a supplemental report coming from the Chilmark Police, and Trustees requested that Library Director retrieve the supplemental report and/or final report from the Chilmark Police.

5. In response to media response to Mr. Dershowitz's talk, there were more calls to the library.

6. Chairman's report:

Mr. Dershowitz's talk went very smoothly. There were 21 attendants, not including the Library trustees and the two members of the press. Trustee Chair guided the people waiting to enter into an organized line. Mr. Dershowitz and his wife arrived at 4:30 to set up. Entrance was at 5 pm, all attendants were respectful and calm. Library Chair clarified the parameters of the talk and the Q and A, and then introduced the speaker. Q and A ended at 6 pm, and book signing ended at 6:35. At the end of his talk, Mr. Dershowitz stated that he hoped he would be asked back to the library for future speaking engagements.

7. Director's Report:

Attendance continues to grow, outpacing 2022 by 115%. Drew has had great success and attendance with Storytime and Toddler Time, numbers not seen for more than 6 years.

8. Programming Report:

Summer Speaker series flyer (draft) was reviewed, with certain events highlighted. Youth Programs flyer was reviewed.

9. Financial Report:

Required spending was met for the certification of the library

10. New Business:

- Septic problem: There was a blockage in the system that was mended but in the process serious

corrosion in the pipes was discovered. The system was pumped out with heavy equipment and descaled. In the same week there was a second blockage from the Family Bathroom. More signage and disposal bins for diapers and feminine products was placed. There is a new process that can coat a corroded pipe from the inside, which may be possible in the fall. If not, there will be serious reconstruction including jackhammering the front hallway to replace pipes. These two visits cost more than \$6,000, which come from Library expenses.

- Broken A/C system: Systems are still broken, hoping it will be fixed next week. Unsure of the cost.

- Defective firewall creating CLAMS software problems: New CLAMS system is very slow. Problem identified as the CLAMS firewall, and a firewall that came from Educomp. There are challenges with the technical support person, so fixing the problem is slow. The cost of repair is unclear at this point.

- June 30th is Town Accountant's last day, so extra accounting work is being carried by Library Director.

- Summer Parking Limitations: HVAC system overhaul at the Chilmark school will be underway, closing up the school's lot for the entire summer. This will leave very limited parking throughout the summer. There is signage already at the library, but that is often ignored.

- New facilities manager: Town has hired new facilities manager, Patti Egan, who is great, but is not a building superintendent. The custodian does not report to the facilities manager, so there is a real question of where the workload of Rodney Bunker will go. Trustees requested the job description, for clarity

- Director's request: Library Director shared concerns with lack of compensation for the work done and required of her at the library, and requested that the Trustees request to adjust the Director's salary to 40 hours/week beginning July 1, 2023. Director was hired in 2006 under this hourly compensation, but the job requirements have changed. Trustees raised concerns around timing as the town budget was just passed, and lack of information regarding finances. Trustees also request the job description from Library Director. By the end of June, Trustees will have a better idea of what the expenses of infrastructural repairs will amount to, and what the remaining state grant money will be. Trustees also requested the Human Resources board decision for 38 hours/week.

11: Next meeting

Wednesday July 12, at 4 pm, at the library small meeting room.

13. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 5:34 pm

Documents:

Draft of Police Report for phone call incident

Summer Programs (draft)

Youth Programs flyer (draft)

6/21/23 Agenda

5/17/23 Minutes

Director's Report

Financial Report