

Chilmark Free Public Library - Trustees' minutes

May 17, 2023 (@ Chilmark Library meeting room, and Zoom)

Present: Jane Kaplan by Zoom, Candy Shweder, Andrew Dubno, Ebba Hierta, and Kaila Allen-Posin

Meeting called to order at 4:07 pm by substitute chair Candy Shweder

Officers were elected: Jane was elected new Chair, moved, seconded and approved. Candy was elected as Vice Chair, moved, seconded and approved. Kaila was elected Secretary, moved, seconded and approved.

Minutes:

The minutes of special meeting on 4/20/23 were moved, seconded and approved.

Communications:

Ebba shared that Steve Lewenberg stopped by to share warm feelings and gratitude towards the library and the work being done there. She also shared that Warren Doty thanked the library at his retirement party.

Suellen Lazarus has requested storytime for the summer at CCC, but that does not seem possible. Drew is fully booked with fulfilling the needs of the library.

Director's Report:

Adult programs were busy in April.

Youth services librarian just began.

Friends of Chilmark Library have been doing a great job, particularly with shifting donations to be digital, which is very helpful.

Tracy Thorpe completed her course and is now a certified librarian (congratulations Tracy!)

Financial Report:

The April 2023 financial report was distributed via email.

Old Business:

1. Proposal to lift the mask requirement for groups at the library was moved, seconded and approved.
2. The town still lacks a building superintendent since Rodney Bunker retired, which is leaving much work for Ebba and the library custodian, Margie. Ebba also expressed that she is the only Department Head in the Town of Chilmark that does not get paid for a 40 hr./week position, though she works closer to 45 hrs/week, and gets compensated for 38 hrs./week. The trustees discussed the need for a superintendent and perhaps revisiting the select board to share concerns.

New Business:

1. Jim Newman talked to the Chilmark School principal and the superintendent of schools Richard Smith regarding a draft two-year contract written by the library director. Superintendent Smith agreed to the draft proposal. It was moved, seconded and

unanimously approved to accept the proposed FY2024 and FY2025 authorize Director Ebba Hierta to sign the contract on the Trustee's behalf.

2. A motion to approve the proposed summer schedule was moved, seconded and unanimously approved. Mondays will be open beginning June 26 and will end on August 21. There will be 2 staff members and Ebba to work on Mondays, including an OB librarian who is able to take on a few shifts over the summer.
3. A group from MIT has requested to use the roof of the library in their project of international atmospheric monitoring of an eclipse. The apparatus is 10 ft. tall. The board questioned liability issues, the stability of a 23 year old shake roof. The board believes there are better options on the island. The MIT group will be visiting this summer.
4. The August Martha's Vineyard Book Festival is on! Board discussed the parking protocol, including the use of the parking lot only when the library is not open and never used for making profit off of parking.
5. With Drew Dubno as the new Youth Services librarian, there are many new and exciting ideas for youth programming. Saturday storytime is starting back up, and there is possibility of a toddler time during the summer as well.
6. The June 20th, 5p.m. talk by Alan Dershowitz has been confirmed. The library accepted his proposal from his letter of July 22, 2022 to speak in June 2023 and "to restrict entry to the first 25 to appear." When we extended the invitation Mr. Dershowitz agreed.

Next meeting:

Wednesday June 21 at 4 pm, at the library small meeting room

Meeting adjourned at 4:38 pm

DOCUMENTS:

Agenda for meeting 5/17/23

Director's report

Financial report

School Contract