

Board of Library Trustees
Meeting November 17, 2011; Minutes

In attendance: Rownak Hussain, June Harris, Stan Pulnick, John Belger, Marie Eldrige, Mike McNamara, Susan Johnson, Sally Getel.

Meeting commenced, 7 p.m., chaired by Marie Eldrige, who presented an Agenda attached by reference.

Stan moved to approved minutes of October meeting as written. Marie second the motion. All in attendance voted to approve.

Welcomed two members of the friends of the library, Susan Johnson and Sally Getel. Susan explained history of organization. Described group as, "small, but mighty". Have managed to raise large sums of money for the friends. Susan's goal was to grow the friends so as not to burn out a small group of volunteers. While there is a small core group, there are some struggles. Friends is the main fund raising arm of the library. Susan provided some examples of how they have used money for the benefit of the library. Library cannot function without this group. Recently the friends provided funds allowing the library to purchase an LCD projector, a DVD player, a public announcement system, book display cases, and, a few years ago, a new circulation desk. Talked about Trustees creating a news letter and collaborating with the friends on a publication page. Trustees are thinking about two news letters a year. Friends are in need of people who are willing to work. Discussed booksale, applecrisp and how much work is involved which typically falls on the shoulders of a few.

Rownak presented budget. Agreed to review budget page, by page. Rownak explain expecting one step increase. Calculate Saturday hours separately. Currently 5 part time and 4 full time (including Rownak). Issue of hiring an additional person. Met with Town Manager on Monday to put out idea of adding a 19 hour part time person. Town Manager's response was not favorable. Town is currently asking all departments to do more with less. Discussion among the Trustees as to how best to formulate a plan moving forward to support request for additional staff. Was suggested we reach out to the community to see what residents are looking for in terms of hours of operation, etc.. Rownak commented the Town has been pushing her to use funds from the McGovern Trust and to ask for less from the Town. Completed review of the budget. Motion to approve budget as presented.

Move to second. Vote took place. All Trustees voted to approve the budget. Budget allowed.

Stan gave us a status on all of the hard work he has been doing to make repairs and improvements to the current library facility.

Marie next provided an update on the library building project and community preservation application. Marie did not feel it was likely we would get any funding now. Scott Richardson was asked to go back and look at the estimated costs in an effort to be sure no disallowed items are found in the request.

Marie talked about Laura Barry spearheading the library foundation. They are currently looking for non voting members to sit on the board. Marie asked for volunteers. Marie said she could attend. Mike agreed to give it a try.

Discussion turned to Trustees each bringing a blurb to the next meeting with a picture, if possible.

Rownak talked about library holiday program. She will send out an email by way of reminder.

Motion to adjourn. Moved to second. Meeting ended at approximately 9:15 p.m.