

Minutes of Trustees' Meeting, Olivia Rodham Memorial Library  
Wednesday, October 21, 2020

Call to Order 3:41 p.m.

Roll Call: Kris Finnegan, Susan Peery, Russ Thomas, Sara Marean and Gretchen Ezell

Susan asked if there were any changes to the September minutes. No changes were noted. Russ moved to accept the minutes as written. Gretchen seconded. The September minutes were approved.

### **Librarian's Report:**

Kris noted that she had sent a self evaluation report to the Board members describing how she had handled the pandemic and its impact on the library. Since several members had not read her report yet, or were absent, it was decided to postpone discussion until the November meeting. Susan will meet briefly with Kris as well.

Kris reported that the Nelson Agricultural Commission had offered to buy seeds for the seed library. This would cost \$14.00 and AGCOM said they would pay half. Instead of Kris making up the seed distribution bags, which was very time consuming, she is going to transfer that responsibility to the patrons who want seeds.

She reported that The Race Matters program, Talking About Race was being offered the first Wednesday of the month at 3:00. Kris also expressed the desire to resume Saturday programs using Zoom, particularly as winter approaches. Gordon Peery and Rick Church have volunteered to present a Zoom program on mapping old Nelson cellar holes on Saturday, December 5th. We discussed possible sources for speakers and programs. Kris had some ideas including Susie Spikol from the Harris center. Gretchen suggested checking with the Cheshire County Historical Society for movie presentations. Sara said she would speak with Eric about doing a presentation on their journeys in Africa. Her offer was met with enthusiasm! Sara also suggested contacting Lindy Black who might be willing to show pictures and share memories of MerriConn on Zoom. Susan said she would check with Marc DiGirolomo who had offered to do a summer forum program on beetles, but he might consider doing a Zoom presentation.

Kris also reported that NH Downloadable Book program was being used consistently . Between 21-25 items are downloaded monthly.

Staffing update: Kris reported that Tal, Heidi's husband , was very ill and Heidi might have to cut back on the hours that she works. Heidi expressed the desire to continue working and said she will come in as much as she can. The Trustees expressed concern and a desire to offer support to the family. It was agreed that due to the extraordinary circumstances, Heidi should continue to receive her 4 hr/week salary. Susan made a motion that we continue to pay Heidi her usual salary. Russ seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Kris noted that she had not yet purchased a new laptop computer as she did not feel knowledgeable enough. The consensus was that Lew had agreed at the last meeting to help with this. Susan said she would check in with Lew.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Lew was absent, but had submitted the September Budget and a draft of a proposed 2021 Budget. It was noted that the TD Bank Money Market account earned \$3.23 for a total of \$19,091.46. The Raymond James account was down -\$1,374.02 for a balance of \$99,584.19. It was decided to delay discussing the proposed 2021 budget until the November meeting.

### **Correspondence:**

Russ reported there was no new correspondence. He suggested that we send a card to Tal and Heidi from the Library Board of Trustees. There was unanimous agreement.

### **New Business:**

Susan brought up the grant possibility offered by the ALA to small libraries. Russ and Kris said they had discussed this and agreed that there were so many qualifications to meet and follow up requirements, that it really didn't seem worth applying for.

Kris mentioned she had virtually attended the Library Trustees Advocacy workshop. The workshop addressed how libraries can offer essential services such as lending books and other materials, community programs, and community information in a different way. Kris noted that as the economy falters, more people tend to use the library. She noticed this during the last recession in 2008. Gretchen said she would copy the links to the Library Advocacy Meeting so more of the Trustees could view the workshop. PDF of Slide Presentation:

<http://nhlibrarians.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Advocacy-Budget-workshops-slides-10-2020.pdf>

Resource Handout with links:

<http://nhlibrarians.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Handout-Advocacy-Budget-Season-10-2020.pdf>

No additional new business was noted. Susan motioned to adjourn. Gretchen seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 3:30 p.m.**

Zoom format

Respectfully submitted,  
Gretchen Ezell