

Minutes of Board of Trustees' Meeting, Olivia Rodham Memorial Library  
Monday, May 17, 2021  
Meeting was held in person at Nelson Town Hall

Call to Order: 11:04 a.m.

Roll Call: Susan Peery, Lew Derby, Sara Marean, Russ Thomas, Gretchen Ezell and Jan Perry, alternate.

Guest attendees: Nelson Board of Selectmen - Gary Robinson, Maury Collins and Dave Upton and Edie Drinkwater, Town of Nelson Administrator.

Susan asked if there were any changes or corrections to the April minutes. None were noted. Russ moved to accept the minutes, Susan seconded. The April minutes were approved unanimously.

### **Librarian's Report**

Kris reported that Heidi has not been coming in, which has resulted in a reduction in cataloguing. She said that there has been a steady stream of patrons using the library adhering to rules of limited numbers, mask wearing and social distancing. Hours remain Monday and Thursday from 1-5p.m. and Tuesday and Saturday 10-noon.

Susan asked Kris if more personnel help and technology was needed as the library reopens and offers hybrid programs? Kris acknowledged that it was too difficult for one person to run a live program and zoom as well. Lew suggested that a microphone, camera and tripod were needed. Sara mentioned that her congregation had just purchased a camera for \$500 and a microphone for \$130, and they were essential for smoothly conducting the combination live/zoom church services and meetings. Kris and Lew were going to look into those purchases.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Lew reported that the library was well within budget. He deposited the \$500.00 donation in memory of Bud French to the TD Bank account. Kris mentioned that she had purchased the award winning books. Lew questioned whether it was necessary for Kris to be a member of the New Hampshire Library Board of Trustees Association. She said she receives the information and does not need to be a dues paying member. Lew indicated that he would pay dues for the five trustees.

The TD Bank Money Market Account gained \$4.88 for a total of \$19,607.42. The Raymond James Investment Account gained \$5,519.32 for a balance of \$114,362.15.

### **Correspondence**

Russ reported that he sent a thank you note to Ted Lenk for pruning the apple tree and blueberry bushes.

### **New Business**

There was discussion of how the ARPA grant distribution of \$2,756.00 could be best utilized. Russ and Gretchen reported on their research on outdoor picnic tables which would be located behind the library and potentially be used by library patrons as well as the larger Nelson community. The proposal was to purchase two tables, one octagonal and one a rectangular handicapped accessible table. The Selectmen were asked if this was something that they would support. The response was positive, with the understanding that there was no storage in the town hall or town office buildings, and that the tables should probably not be placed

between the town hall and office buildings because that area is plowed in the winter. There was discussion concerning how to minimize upkeep/lawn mowing around the tables. Sara suggested putting mulch underneath which was thought to be an excellent suggestion.. Dave Upton also requested that the Library trustees provide a sketch indicating where the tables would be located, to have something on record. Russ indicated that he would follow through on that.

The Selectmen and Town Administrator left after this portion of the discussion.

Russ brought up that shelving for the downstairs library room was needed and would cost approximately \$250. Gretchen and Russ had researched picnic tables and recommended purchasing ones from Millbrook Farm Woodworks in Westmoreland. An octagon picnic table made from southern pine and water sealed would cost \$875.00. The rectangular one would be similarly priced. The tables could be taken apart and stored or covered and left outside year round. The consensus of the Board was for Kris to go ahead and order the tables.

Susan said she would investigate the possibility of having an outdoor VIMS program as a replacement for the cancelled library summer forum program this year.

Kris said she had dropped the library's movie license (\$130) since it was not possible to hold indoor movie night. She mentioned that attendance had been spotty even when she offered it.

Susan reported on the NHLT conference that she attended on zoom. She was particularly impressed with the keynote speaker, Deo Mwano. Deo was born in Zaire. His father was assassinated and Deo became a refugee. Sponsored as a teenager, he made his way to Manchester, NH and now in his 30's is a community activist encouraging libraries to gather information on who is missing in our communities and how can we attract and welcome a more diverse population.

Susan mentioned that if Governor Sununu lifts the emergency order, we may not be able to hold zoom meetings or will need to have hybrid options. Kris said she has been able to attend many more meetings because of the zoom format and hopes it will continue as an option in addition to in person attendance. Jan will attend the next NHLT orientation.

At 12:20 p.m. the Trustees went into non-public session to discuss library health and safety protocols.

At 12:43 public session resumed. Susan read the Protocols that were agreed to and will be posted outside the library. The goal is to keep the library open and protect the public and staff. Lew made the motion to approve the protocols. Russ seconded the motion. All approved and the motion was unanimously passed. These protocols will be revisited monthly.

Susan agreed to send a copy of the protocols to both Heidi Tompkins and Edie Drinkwater.

Susan motioned to adjourn the meeting. Russ seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:53.

**Next Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 16, 2021 at 3:30 p.m.  
In person - Nelson Library**

Respectfully submitted,

Gretchen Ezell

