

Minutes of Trustees' Meeting, Olivia Rodham Memorial Library
Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Call to Order 3:32 p.m.

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

Donna Kidd attending representing The Friends of the Library

Susan asked if there were any changes to the August minutes. No changes were noted. Lew motioned to accept the minutes as written. Susan seconded. The minutes were approved.

Librarian's Report:

Kris reported that she had revised the library sign to include the new hours of Monday 1-5p.m., Tuesday 9am - 12 p.m, and Thursday 1-5 p.m. She said that the library flow was good and she is accomplishing a great deal.

Eight people attended the follow up Racial Justice Group in Hancock. On October 7th, Kris will facilitate a discussion group "Talking About Race". She will offer an informational page on racial matters to read ahead of time.

Rev. Lindy Black, former Nelson minister and resident, had contacted Kris after hearing that her family homestead "Merricon" had been demolished. Kris explained that the condition of the house left no choice, and now was a lovely site. Lindy is creating a booklet of pictures and stories of Merricon and will send three copies to Kris. One copy will be for the library, one for Bert Wingerson to put in the Nelson Archives, and one to Gordon Peery to include in Nelson Historical records.

Susan brought up Kris's concern about Covid safety issues concerning the library's heating system - Susan reported that she had spoken with Edie Drinkwater who said the town was getting quotes for state of the art air filters for all town building furnaces including the library. In addition the town will be purchasing air purifiers. Kris said she was not comfortable cleaning and sanitizing the mini-split filters in the library. The Trustees agreed that she should not be responsible for doing that, and probably would not have to if the oil furnace was used. Susan said she would get more information and report back.

Treasurer's Report:

Lew reported that financially we continued to be in good shape. The 2020 budget had been approved at Town Meeting. He reported that he had not requested our extra funds at this time, suggesting that we do so at the end of the year as expenses have been minimal.

The TD Bank Money Market account gained \$3.24 for a total of \$19,088.23. The Raymond James account made a gain of \$2,334.01 for a total of \$100,958.21.

The question was posed when we should discuss the 2021 budget? Kris said she thought by the end of December. This was confirmed by Edie who happened to be passing by.

Susan motioned to accept the Treasurer's report. Gretchen seconded. All members approved. The motion passed.

Correspondence:

Russ reported there was no new correspondence.

New Business:

The discussion concerning the Basement Book Project was reopened. Donna Kidd, representing The Friends of the Library, joined the dialogue. Heidi Tompkins had sent a detailed report on what she had set up and was doing to handle the overload of donated books which had accumulated in the basement. Kris had approved that she do this temporarily for 2 hrs a week as Covid had restricted The Friends of the Library from holding any of their book sales, and it would help clear out the basement space. After researching what other libraries were doing to handle donated books, Heidi chose a company called Better World Books. They send packing boxes and cover shipping costs. Books they accept are put up for sale on various sites and if sold, the library receives a percentage. Unsold books are eventually donated to literacy programs. To date ,Heidi has sent almost 1,000 books. Although the monetary return has been minimal so far, she requested that Kris and the Trustees continue the program. Heidi felt it was too early to assess the the financial return and the donations were going to a good cause. The Friends of the Library are usually in charge of handling book donations. Donna reported that she had boxed up good books for a future book sale which have been put aside in the basement, and helped Heidi by taking several loads of rejected books to the Transfer Station. Discussion continued on whether to accept more donated books and conclusion was not to. The consensus was that it was more important to clear out and then clean the existing space as much as possible. The Friends of the Library can then have a fresh start when they decide to resume accepting donations and hopefully resume book sales. They may choose to continue working with Better World Books as a way to manage their book inventory. Heidi's efforts in setting up this creative way to deal with surplus book donations is greatly appreciated. The Board and Kris agreed to let Heidi continue with the project until the end of the year, with the understanding that Kris would prioritize the needs of running the library before allocating extra time to the book project.

Susan mentioned that the next several Trustees meetings would have to be held on Zoom. This prompted a discussion whether the library should have a Zoom account. Kris mentioned that her computers were at least 5 yrs old and did not have good cameras or speakers. Lew pointed out that the budget could accommodate purchasing a new computer. Only \$400 has been spent out of a \$900 allocation for programs. The Board agreed that it was important for the library to have a computer with a good cameral and sound to hold Zoom meetings and programs. This will be increasingly important during the winter to offset isolation. Kris will contact Matthew Hale to ask his advice about buying and setting up a new computer. Lew agreed to help with this. Russ moved that the library purchase a new computer. Lew seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

Gretchen motioned to adjourn. Susan seconded. Unanimously approved.
Meeting was adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 21,2020 at 3:30 p.m

Sara agreed to host Zoom meeting

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Ezell

