

Friends of the Sharon Public Library Minutes, Board meeting on July 6, 2020 – held via Zoom due to the library being closed

Prepared by: Joanne Blatte

Present: Kate Mason, Joanne Blatte, Amity Kelley, Carolyn Weeks, Alice Cusner, Elizabeth Kassab, Giselle Princz, Lee Ann Amend (library director)

The town of Sharon has closed the library to the public in order to slow/stop the spread of the coronavirus so this meeting was held via zoom.

Key Tasks assigned at this meeting:

All:

Stay Safe

Write letters and attend the ZBA Zoom Meeting on Wednesday July 8

Alice:

Adopt a Book as needed

Get her son-in-law to review the Baystate Books contract

Amity:

Set up Zoom meeting for our next board meeting when needed

Carolyn:

Keep us updated on trustees' and new library issues

Elizabeth:

Send out email to members, as needed

Work with Lee Ann on Janet Parnes zoom program

Giselle:

Handle memberships, as needed

Joanne:

Manage Website, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter

Design sign for Baystate Books donations bins

Kate:

Handle membership, as needed

Ask permission to place bins at Shaws or Heights

Work with Baystate Books on contract

Lee Ann:

Provide an update on museum passes at our next meeting

Alice motioned to approve May minutes

Amity seconded

Motion passed

Financial Report: Giselle

We currently have \$14,755.17 in the bank. With libraries now opening up again, Lee Ann and Karen Mafera will advise us on the status of museum passes – We are no longer purchasing duplicates. Are there some we should discontinue? Are the museums still honoring the passes? Are any museums offering discounts on passes?

Alice motioned to accept the financial report

Amity seconded

Motion passed

Library Update:

The bottom floor of the library flooded during last night's storm. The library had been planning to open with restrictions today. The opening is now delayed.

The state came out today with new regulations for libraries. The library can open with 40% occupancy including staff. Sharon will allow 40 people max in the building and all patrons are asked to stay for an hour at most. The library moved a lot of the furniture into the community room to prevent patrons from sitting on it. Curbside pickup will continue and be encouraged. Interlibrary loans are starting up again

Book Sale:

We decided that we can't safely hold a book sale this year. The community room is too small to have volunteers sorting or people shopping while social distancing

Kate held more conversations with Larry O'Connor from Baystate Books and one of their clients from Lincoln.

Lincoln:

In non-COVID times, Lincoln holds monthly sales and Larry would be allowed to pre-sift through the books before the sale opens. He normally might take 100 non-fiction books. He sells them on Amazon. Larry provides a spreadsheet to Lincoln at the end of each quarter.

Now, during COVID Lincoln has 2 outdoor Baystate Books bins for book collection. Bins are filling up quickly.

Our proposed relationship with Baystate Books.

We are on a pick-up route with other towns (Walpole and Attleboro) and would share the cost of the pickup with them.

We could do contract for 6 months and then re-evaluate. We could suspend then if we think we can hold a book sale in the spring.

We discussed 2 location options – Shaw's Plaza and Heights Plaza. The Capital Group owns Shaw's Plaza and Larry Needle owns Heights.

Next steps:

Kate will ask Lincoln:

- 1) Do they tell book sellers (or the public) that someone (Larry) has had early access to the books?
- 2) Does their liability insurance cover if anyone gets hurt while putting books in the bins?

Kate will contact the owners of Shaws Plaza and Heights to see if they would let us put 2 bins there.

Kate will forward the contract to Alice so she can run by her son-in-law who is a contract lawyer.

Once we sign the agreement, we will need to create a schedule for a board member checking on the bin (open slot and see how full it is) and notifying Larry if it needs to be emptied.

The bins are 5x5x5. Joanne will design a sign with our logo to go on the side (similar to examples from Baystate Books)

After deciding, we will send out an email to members notifying them

- 1) we canceled the book sale
- 2) Books can be donated at the bins
- 3) How we are handling membership

Once bins are in place, we need to spread the word! We will place an ad in the suburban shopper and promote in our normal places – Facebook, Library website, Library email, our website

Programming:

Janet Parnes (<https://women-history.com/>) has offered to do a free zoom presentation for the Friends. She typically portrays historical women. She did a presentation at Sharon Library last October. Elizabeth will choose one of her programs and work with Lee Ann to organize

Zoning Board:

The next Zoning board of Appeals is meeting on July 8 via Zoom to discuss variances required for the new library. All Friends members are urged to attend the meeting and stay informed.

Kate will let us know if we need to meet in August via zoom or can handle decisions via email.

Amity motioned to adjourn

Alice seconded
Meeting adjourned