

Meeting Acushnet Public Library Board of Trustees

April 11, 2018

In attendance: Kristen Leotti, Chair

Diane Ferreira
Henry Preston
Nancy Frances
Jennifer Alves
Jeri Howland
Dina Brasseur, Director

Audience: Connie Preston

Motion was made by Nancy Frances to accept the Secretary's report from February 20, 2018 and seconded by Diane Ferreira. All voted in favor.

Nancy Frances nominated Kristen Leotti to continue in her role of Chair. Jeri Howland volunteered to continue as Secretary. All voted in favor of both.

Financial Report

Dina reports that 77% of the budget has been spent. Building and Grounds is slightly higher but is fine (money could be borrowed from Equipment and Repairs if necessary). Education money is almost gone. Dina will be renewing her American Library Association membership and will also be attending a State library conference. Jeri moved to accept the report and Diane seconded. All voted in favor.

Building Update

Because of a storm the first weekend in March, there were 18 inches of water in the basement. It was pumped by the fire department that Saturday. Some water is still coming up through a crack in the floor. A new sump pump (cost \$165) has been installed. There was some damage to the polling booths that were being stored in the cellar. The Town Clerk is aware of the problem. Nothing should be stored in that area of the cellar as it is the lowest point.

Plumbing issues still exist. A new clean out pipe has been recommended as well as a PVC pipe going into the septic system. Joe Correia from the Board of Health has inspected it. Brian Noble has submitted a Town Meeting funding article (#21) for \$25,000 to fix or replace the septic system. The entire system or leaching field may be failing. All trustees are asked to attend the town meeting on May 14 at 7 p.m. at Ford Middle School. Henry mentioned switching to hand dryers not paper towels in both restrooms to avoid them being flushed.

The Board of Trustees accepted the offer of the DPW to remove the overgrowth around the perimeter. Dan Menard and Brian Noble raised questions about removing the fence. Brian said the work will be done during the summer if not sooner. Brian Noble suggested posting signs about the drop in back of the yard instead of replacing the fence or only replacing part of the fence. The revised quote from Southeast Fence is \$5,000 for black chain link in the back. Replacing the fence was initially a cosmetic issue but now the fence is in worse shape due to the storm. DPW is willing to remove the growth at no expense. Nancy said safety-wise the fence should be replaced and that posting signs was inadequate since the backyard is used for library events.

Kristen recommended revisiting the fence, security system, and generator in the future. Quotes for side fencing are still needed. DPW said summer would be when they could remove the brush and fence. Nancy thinks that the fence should be replaced at the same time that the old fence and brush are removed for safety reasons.

Scott Alexander replaced the door in back of the building for \$495. It still needs a deadbolt and the cost of that is not known.

Dina is looking into a security system.

Announcements

Dina presented the statistics for February and March. Numbers are higher in all categories, even with the library having to close a few times due to storms. The library will put an "ad" on the back of the Town Meeting warrant (similar to last year).

PACE of Greater New Bedford will do a series of STEM workshops for preschool age starting in May.

Pajama storytime will be held on Thursday, April 19.

A Facetime author visit is scheduled for Saturday, April 21, on the book, Claude and Camille. This is a first for Acushnet.

On May 9, Delia Cabe will discuss her book, Storied Bars of New York.

On May 16, there will be a repeat of last year's evening, "Meet Your Farmer" and a performance by the Ford Middle School Chorus.

On May 23, Bob Rocha will present a whaling program.

On May 30, Michael Tougas will discuss his book, Above and Beyond.

Dina thanked the Friends of the Library for their support. All programs are free.

On April 23, a free SAT prep program will be offered by Nancy Frances.

The new COA homebound delivery program is very successful. Dina has been delivering the books herself. Other staff are interested in participating. Thank you to Heather Silvia of COA for suggesting this program.

The next Trustees meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 10, 2018 at 4:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Henry to adjourn the meeting at 5:03 p.m. and then go into Executive Session to discuss the library director's contract. The Board of Trustees will not reconvene. A roll call vote was taken and all agreed. The meeting ended at 5:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeri Howland

Approved at 5.10.18 BOT meeting