



WFL BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES MINUTES

DATE: Thursday, September 15, 2022

TIME: 5:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Wareham Free Library – main branch

Board Members/Attendees Present: Holli Van Nest (Chair), Deanne Bonner (Vice Chair), Sarah Corbitt (Secretary), Nancy Rice, Patrick Marshall, Director. Margit Price was absent. Peter Gold, Linda Scharf and Beth McCarthy, members of the public, were also present.

Call to Order: 5:31 p.m. by H. Van Nest.

Review and Approval of Minutes: August Minutes were reviewed. Motion by N. Rice to accept the August 23, 2022 minutes; seconded by D. Bonner; vote 4-0-0.

Announcements:

S. Corbitt suggested H. Van Nest send thank you notes to Eagle Scout Galen Lauer and his mother April Lauer for Galen's project of improving the Children's Learning Garden.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment at this time.

Foundation Report:

P. Marshall reported the Bridge the Gap campaign was a success, but the Foundation won't be announcing it until the annual donation by A.D. Makepeace is confirmed. He shared the Trustees' desire for the Foundation and the Trustees to get together for a meet and greet.

H. Van Nest reported she has been in communication with Foundation Chair Eileen Scully, first via email then over the phone. She said it was a very good conversation. H. Van Nest said the Foundation Chair was in agreement that it would be good for the Library for the Foundation, the Friends and the Trustees to find a way to work closely together in support of the Library. She also reported that the Foundation's fundraising goal for 2022 is \$80,000.

B. McCarthy, a member of the public, asked what was the role of the Foundation. H. Van Nest explained it can be confusing. We as Trustees find ways to work with the Foundation towards our shared goal of supporting and strengthening the Library. She was also directed to the Library website for information on the Trustees, especially the Three-Legged Stool information.

H. Van Nest will be working to find a date she can meet with E. Scully and Friends Chair P. Porter, hopefully before Oct. 5 when she will be attending the Foundation monthly meeting. H. Van Nest is looking into if the three groups can work together on fundraising.

P. Marshall said the Trustees are prohibited from fundraising as per the settled lawsuit.

H. Van Nest said the Trustees will put that issue in the parking lot to be discussed at a later date.

Friends Report:

N. Rice reported they were catching up with the bookkeeping and making plans for the Fall. They are planning a raffle to begin during the October book sale, which will be awarded at the annual Holiday Fair in December. The Friends would like to bring back the baked goods table and are looking into best health practices post-Covid. Previous vendors are also returning. Marcia Hickey asked if the Friends could fund two programs, a sign language program for infants and a birds of prey program, which the Friends agreed to fund. N. Rice issued an open invitation for the Trustees to attend Friends' meetings. H. Van Nest is planning to attend the next meeting, October 11.

Correspondence:

MBLC: The annual meeting is Oct. 22.

Trustee's email account: There was no correspondence in the Trustee's email account.

Trustee's Library mailbox: H. Van Nest reported we received a thank you note from former Trustee Joanne Robertson, thanking the Trustees for the nice going away party and generous gift card.

H. Van Nest also reported she had received an email from the Board of Selectmen instructing all Board members to print out, sign and return the updated Discrimination and Harassment policy which now includes prohibiting discrimination on the basis of natural or protective hairstyles. The deadline to return the receipt to H. Van Nest is Sept. 29.

Old Business:

Recruitment efforts: S. Corbitt shared that she has been in contact with Jowaun Gamble, who heads up the Community Youth Empowerment organization in Wareham, in the hopes he would join the Trustees. Unfortunately, he lives in Canton, which puts him out of the running. But S. Corbitt is hoping he can help us spread the word.

H. Van Nest reported she has been in contact with Selectman Jared Chadwick, who works with many youth organizations in Wareham, hoping he could also spread the word.

Paul Gold, member of the public, is attending his second Board meeting in the hopes of joining the Trustees.

Beth McCarthy, also a member of the public, may be interested in becoming a member of the Trustees. She was recruited by the recruitment flier the Recruitment Subcommittee put together.

Preparing for Town Meeting: D. Bonner said she has been in contact with the new Town Moderator Margaret Ishihara to ask permission for an information table about the Library and the Trustee's recruitment efforts. D. Bonner said if M. Ishihara's reluctance centered around setting a precedent for other groups to do the same, D. Bonner said she would propose that we be a pilot program. M. Price and D. Bonner will work together on drafting an e-mail to the Moderator with that proposal.

New Business:

S. Corbitt explained she would like to brainstorm with the Trustees to see how the Board of Library Trustees/the Library could participate in Town Administrator Derek Sullivan's proposal to relocate Town offices to the Decas Elementary School and repurpose Town Hall and the Multiservice Center. She thought the Library could somehow partner with the COA in that process. P. Marshall gave examples of the Library's very strong relationship with the COA and said that will continue. D. Bonner said she wished the Trustees had the kind of relationship the Library has with the COA with all the volunteer boards in town.

Library staffing - M. Price had asked for an item to be put on the October agenda regarding staffing. M. Price's concerns were the pressure put on the limited Library staff to cover the Spinney Library hours in the summer and the impact on the main branch. P. Marshall said use of the Spinney Library was low this summer. H. Van Nest suggested we add a question to the survey regarding when would you use the Library, where do you use the Library, what stops you from using the Library. This discussion was moved to the parking lot.

P. Marshall said Covid changed the way the Library is used. The Library is no longer just "these four walls." Circulation is down, but programming attendance is up.

B. McCarthy said the Library is really important, especially for people with no access to a different library for things like Internet access.

A discussion ensued about the use of hot spots, which have dropped off the budget. H. Van Nest said perhaps we should revisit that item. This was moved to the parking lot.

Director's Report:

The Director's Report is included for submission with this document.

The Spinney Library hours will end after Tuesday, Sept. 27. Thursday, Sept. 29 will be a staff development day. Then the main Library will resume regular hours.

D. Bonner spoke about the strong relationship the Library had with Head Start, and what an important program that was, especially for underserved children.

Trustee Matters:

Board of Trustees Retreat:

H. Van Nest said she envisioned a brainstorming session, and then breaking down those ideas to come up with three to five goals for the rest of the current fiscal year.

The date and time for the retreat will be Oct. 22, 9 am - 1 pm at the Library in the conference room.

Next Meeting:

The Trustees discussed a change in the schedule for the next three meetings due to conflicts. The proposed schedule is to meet the 4th Wednesday of October, and the 3rd Wednesday in November and December. The next meeting is proposed for Wednesday, Oct. 26 at 5:30 pm. The schedule for 2023 meetings will be discussed at an upcoming meeting.

Adjournment:

H. Van Nest called for a motion to adjourn. S. Corbitt moved to adjourn, D. Bonnar seconded.

Adjourned 6:53 pm

Calendar of 2022-2023 meetings:

October 26, 2022	November 16, 2022	December 21, 2022	January 25, 2023	February 22, 2023
March 22, 2023	April 26, 2023	May 24, 2023	June 28, 2023	July 26, 2023

Documents used in the meeting:

Wareham Free Library BoLT minutes August, 23, 2022

Director's Report

WFL Library Statistics FISCAL YEAR 2023

Date Signed: 11/2/22 Attest:

Sarah Corbitt

Sarah Corbitt, Secretary
WAREHAM FREE LIBRARY BOARD OF
LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Date Copy Sent to Wareham Town Clerk:

11/2/22