

Library Board Meeting - March 13, 2018

Members Present: Library Director Christina Becker; Board Members Jen Baker-Porazinski, Monica Ravreby, Sue Mitchell, Clem Crowe, Sue Sawyer, Mary Laedlein, Ken Gottry

SM made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes. JBP seconded. All were in favor.

Treasurer's Report:  
BO is away.

Old Business:

The budget has been sent to the Village and the proposition for the school budget had been submitted (which was a \$2000 increase from last year).

New Business

Howard Romack came to speak to the board. He congratulated CB (and Betsy) for her efforts in bringing outdoor education to the library so that kids become stewards of the environment. Howard mentioned doing an adult environmental program in the summer with the help of other adult environmentalists in the area. He also noted that he uses a lot of field guides in his classes and thanks the library board for certificates at our local book store so he can obtain newer copies.

SM expressed her condolences about the great loss to the library and community with the passing of George Bell.

Library Director Report:

CB briefly mentioned the newsletter with hopes to include library statistics as well as the success of the Hubbard Hall passes and the new museum passes. Once complete, CB brings to AM printers to be put in The Eagle and The Free Press.

The Annual report was turned in to SALS and NYS has approved it.

Heather McNulty will be in charge of after-school hours at the media center at CCS to keep it open on the evenings when the library isn't open.

CB and Carmen Bogle have completed the aspiration exercises from Community Change and one of the largest concerns expressed was communications. They set up short- and long-term goals. CB and another person will be starting a monthly community newsletter. They are also looking into mobile hot spots for internet services, running up to 10 devices at a time. CB will be asking local businesses if a mobile hot spot may be used in their building so residents of different communities don't have to travel downtown for access. CB is looking into the cost of purchasing a mobile hot spot. The long-term goal is to advocate for broadband service for the community. There is some money designated through Phase 3 of Governor Cuomo's initiative. March 20 CB will be meeting with Laura Oswald, the WaCo Economic Development director to discuss broadband. Jimmy Griffith is volunteering time to help with this as well. The Gates Foundation also has grant money for access.

Gail Jenson has been hired as an experienced adult literacy tutor for Cambridge library to be shared with Bancroft, Easton and Argyle libraries. She will work 10 hours a week traveling between these libraries as covered by the SALS seed grant.

Orion Baker-Porazinski began volunteering at the library. He is cataloguing and helping to organize the archives. Ruth Nolan will be volunteering in the near future as well. Hopefully at some point in the future the volunteers may be able to help with tech support.

Deb Jaffee approached CB to see if the library wanted to partner with the Farmer's Market. Specifically she would like help to apply for grants through LARAC, including to pay for local musicians and to help pay for their Maker's tent where people can share their crafts and time. The library is welcome to make a weekly presence at the Community Tent. The library board agreed unanimously that it is reasonable to look into this further in terms of liability and responsibilities and possibly ask Deb to attend a future library board meeting to discuss potential collaboration.

Upcoming events by Howard Romack: On 4/21 he will present a microscope program, on 5/12 he will be doing a Lake Lauderdale Hike, on 6/2 he will do a Live Critter Exhibit and Discussion, on 6/5 he will present a lecture and slide show on the French Guiana tropical rainforest and on 8/4 he will do an adult science enrichment program at the Salem Rod and Gun Club.

CB will be going to a conference 5/16 and 5/17.

The Annual SALS dinner is 5/21.

CB is working on the summer reading program for July in Hubbard Hall on Wednesday evenings at 6:30.

CB was approached by a meditation group with the request to use the library for evening meetings.

Nancy Patton left \$2000 to the library in her will.

Betsy and CB are doing another 6 week summer reading program.

CB mentioned exhibiting local art work in the library. She will look into purchasing runners to hang on the wall to display artwork.

The next meeting of the Library Board will be Tuesday, April 24th at 4:15.