

BRAINERD MEMORIAL LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
September 27, 2022

PRESENT: David Neal, Lorraine Myra Aronow, Tom Piezzo, Terry Smith, Terry Twigg, Lynne Cooper, Margaret Adams, Cherry Czuba, and Mary Karkutt- Kulak via Zoom

ABSENT: Cindy Tillson

Meeting called to order at 7:04 P.M. by President Terry Twigg

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

SECRETARY'S: Approved August Meeting Minutes

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Tom covered four topics

- The sidewalk project is proceeding with discussions about placement
- Tom and other library staff covered the Haddam Neck Fair, giving away books and getting the word out about library services
- The House and Senate Candidates Forum is scheduled for Tuesday November 1, 6:30PM at Valley Regional High School. The forum will be streamed on-line. Tom has sent a first solicitation for questions. This will be a forum as opposed to a debate.
- The Fall Fest is scheduled for Saturday, 10/15 from 10AM until 2PM

NOMINATING:

- Myra reported that several board member candidates were approached but are not available at this time.
- Events needs a chair although there are plenty of volunteers

FINANCE:

- Lynne circulated documents on the endowment and operations. The Finance committee will be meeting in early October.

STRATEGIC PLAN: No report

BUILDING AND GROUNDS:

- David circulated an edited draft of the Building and Grounds Care Policy. This will be discussed when Cindy Tillson is in attendance.
- An extension for the State library grant has been prepared. The new timeline includes RFP's, Bids and Architect selection by year end.
- Staff and Pest Control are working to eliminate mice.
- An attic leak was repaired.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY:

- Fall Fest is October 15 at the library. Valley Shore Line Dancers and other fun activities are scheduled. Cherry made an appeal for the donation of plants.

COMUNICATIONS:

- A chair for Communications is needed although Donna and her husband are actively preparing materials

PERSONNEL AND POLICY:

- There is a need for chairpersons of several committees.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN, INTERIOR RENOVATION AND PRESIDENS REPORT:

- Terry Twigg kicked off a discussion about the feasibility of the capital campaign considering rising construction costs and economic conditions.
- Construction costs are up as much as 36% - when applied to the \$1.3 Million budget the costs escalate to around \$1.8 Million. If town funding and State Library funding remain the same, then our share to raise is \$800k
- As decision needs to be made to continue forward or to scrap the plan and forgo grants from the State Library Board and from the town. If we scrap the current grants, we must wait at least five years to reapply.
- Terry T. requested updated numbers from David and Lorraine for renovations and money to be spent in Q4 2022.
- Terry T. requested permission from the Board to begin a dialogue with Christine Palm and then the State Library Board open discussions about the changes required for scope of work and expenditures considering current economic conditions. She also will approach Bob McGarry about the capital requirements and town support for additional funding as well as capital campaign support.

- In summary, to go forward we need to be able to manage down the total costs via either permitted scope changes or changes to materials, contents, and design. We also need to quickly determine a reasonable target for capital fundraising considering our demographics.
- Terry T. and Tom are creating a list of sources for additional grants.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ ACTION ITEMS:

NEW BUSINESS:

- Tom introduced a discussion about library neutrality and the process followed if patrons challenge books available at the library.
- To date although there are occasional concerns, no one has insisted that any book is removed from circulation.
- The board decided that the current policy is working well. No changes are planned.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 P.M.

The next meeting date will be October 25, 2022, at 7 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Margaret Adams, Secretary

(draft)