

Minutes of Quechee Library Trustees' Meeting

Jan. 8, 2024

Attending: Tommy Bauch (President), Mark Bradley (Trustee), Brian Chaboyer (secretary), Bill Eastwood (Trustee), Dave Izzo (Treasurer), Debbie Marcus (Trustee), Kate Schaal (Library Director), Jim Schmidt (Trustee), Robert Hamlin

Public Comments: Robert wished everyone a happy new year.

Treasurer's Report: Dave provided an overview of his written report. Expenses are pretty much in line with our budget. We just paid an insurance bill of \$3600 and another high electrical bill (from the use of the heat pumps), which are not in the current report. Hopefully, our propane usage will be down and offset the high electrical bills. The annual appeal is going well and donations are slightly ahead of last year.

The report was unanimously accepted (moved by Bill, seconded by Jim).

Library Director's Report: Kate Schaal presented her written report. The report was unanimously accepted (moved by Dave, seconded by Debbie), with a discussion of a number of issues:

1. It was good to see Jim and Meg in person at the library last week.
2. The library feels busy, and there are some Waldorf and middle school children who are coming regularly to the library after school. However, circulation is still somewhat down from last year. These numbers include Kanopy. The New York Times digital subscription usage will be included going forward. Online (digital) checkouts have increased in the last few years, but appear to have stabilized. In general, libraries are facing challenges with circulation, as there are many online options other than the library for obtaining content.
3. We have been approached by the Chamber of Commerce to become members, and to potentially provide some books to stock a free lending library at the visitor center near the gorge. Given our non-profit nature, becoming a member of the Chamber of Commerce does not seem appropriate. We already stock a free lending library at the state park near the gorge. Kate will continue discussions with the Chamber of Commerce.
4. We are having lots of fabric related workshops, which are appreciated. Kate is looking into having other other types of workshops as well.
5. We still do about 60 DVD loans per month, though it is getting more difficult to find DVDs for purchase.
6. The Sustainable Libraries Initiative is going well. Debbie is attending the meetings on a regular basis, though she cannot make the meeting next month.
7. Many thanks to Dave and Tommy. Dave, with some assistance from Tommy, was able to get the phone in the elevator working.

8. Self-reading children's books are now available to libraries, from VOX books and Wonderbook. They are expensive (about \$50 for a single book), but we will consider purchasing some to see if there is interest.

9. There was a fun, well attended holiday event at the Wilder Club, which included music, etc. Fundraising for the window replacement project at Wilder is going well. The Byrne foundation has made a significant matching donation.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Next Regular Meeting: Feb. 12 at 5pm.

Meeting adjourned at 5:32 pm EDT