

Minutes of Quechee Library Trustees' Meeting

March 13, 2023

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

Minutes of the Feb. 13 meeting were approved

Public Comments: Robert Hamlin congratulated everyone on their response to the select board taking the library budget out of the General Fund and being put into a separate voting Article for funding. Our efforts to publicize this issue resonated with town voters.

Treasurer's Report: Dave provided an overview of his written report. Expenditures are in line with the budget. The Town Appropriation arrived and has been deposited. As a result, Dave did not have to withdraw funds from our investment accounts. Income from donations (partly due to Dave Courtney memorial) and book sales are above expectations. The investment accounts had positive capital gains in December.

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

Kate Schaal presented her written report. The report was accepted (moved by Dave, seconded by Jim, with a discussion of a number of issues:

1. The town wide vote on our budget led to some negative feedback from an individual in Wilder, which has been very discouraging for the staff.
2. The decline in circulation continues to be a concern. A fair bit of this decline is due to a decline in children's circulation. In the last few years, the Town of Hartford recreation department has started very aggressively promoting many activities for children (such as story time) which in the past was done exclusively by the libraries. This includes running the same programs we have done so in past years.
3. We will have to switch to ECE fiber as our internet service provider.
4. We have some funds for capital projects. We should consider projects which improve accessibility, perhaps a new vestibule which would include a powered door. Another option would be to put in a ductless heat pump into the basement. This would cost around \$6K and likely would lead to lower humidity in the summer.

Old Business: None.

New Business: A few social service organizations that were left out of the deadline for being on the town ballot are concerned about how the town budget was and ballots were organized this year. We can explore if there is some interest among these organizations for a united discussion with the select board. We should give some direct feedback on the acting town manager to the

selection committee for the new town manager.

Next Regular Meeting: April 10 at 5pm.

Meeting adjourned at 5:46pm