

APPROVED

BARNET PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING 11/14/2024

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

In attendance: Linda Cochrane, Dylan Ford, Laura Goldberg, Becca Pedersen, Jackie Verley and Sue Wood.

Agenda:

No additions or deletions were made to tonight's agenda.

Minutes of the 10/10/24 meeting were approved.

Board Chair Report:

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer had no comments about this month's budget.

Dylan introduced a discussion about how we designate and use "gifts" versus Annual Appeal donations.

There was further discussion regarding the wording of the annual appeal letter – whether we should be suggesting that annual appeal monies would be used exclusively for those expenditures specified in the letter, or more generally as library needs arise.

Librarian's Report:

Trunk or Treat: Great weather and attendance. There were lots of new "trunkers," not just the usual people. This was a very low-cost event, as all of the books were free.

CLiF presentations: These will be on December 6th at the Barnet School. After this, the books can be checked out.

Christmas vacation activity: Dylan is considering having a sledding story hour. Gretchen and Ian Boswell have offered their Peacham barn and property for this event. Date/time to be determined.

Waffle Wednesdays: The final Waffle Wednesday of the year took place on November 13th. As usual, messy but well-attended and enjoyed by all.

Plumbing issues: Dylan found a significant leak and called in Johnson's Plumbing to repair, but the whole system is old and neglected and needs further work. The electrical system is similarly in need of repairs. This is a matter for the town; Dylan will bring this before the selectboard.

Culled books: There are more books that need to be taken to the recycling center.

Art at the Library Update:

Paper Art with Becky Boardman, 11/7/24: This was, as usual, much enjoyed by attendees.

Wreathmaking with Annette Hyder, 12/4/24. The board brought up the idea of ordering another folding table, now that we have the moveable shelving in the children's room and can arrange the space to accommodate more work surfaces (and therefore can increase the class size limit).

Felting for Valentine's Day with Sherry Colby-Schenk, 1/15/25.

Susan Chandler, the library's new next-door neighbor, is interested in doing a presentation in the spring

Monthly Board Calendar:

The board discussed whether we should change our procedure for reviewing/updating library policies and bylaws. It was decided to continue to review these by spreading it out throughout the year, reviewing a small number of policies at each monthly board meeting.

The board may be adding or reviewing a few policies, such as regarding donations, inclement weather and other tasks and policies not currently specified.

New Business:

Timeline for hiring assistant librarian:

1. Dylan has provided a job description. Jackie will be sending out the job description as a Google Doc, to be reviewed by the board. Board members are to come up with questions to ask the candidates and add these questions to the job document.
2. Job will be posted after the December 5th budget meeting, at which the assistant librarian's hours will be determined.
3. The interviews, which will take place in January, will be conducted by the board with Dylan sitting in.

Old/Continuing Business:

OPAC (on-line access to Barnet Public Library holdings): This software allows library patrons to search our entire catalog. It also can potentially benefit the library itself by providing statistical data and information that may help the library with planning and decision-making regarding patron usage patterns, etc.

We do not yet know what proportion of patrons will use this service, and Dylan asked the board whether it felt it worth the \$200 per year the OPAC service will cost. See budget under Software. The Board had already approved this expense, and after some discussion reaffirmed that it would like to acquire this software and give it a minimum of a year's trial with tracking circulation.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 pm.

Next meeting dates are: December 5th at 7:00pm (Special meeting- budget), and January 9th, 2025 at 7:00pm. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month, with the exceptions of December and July.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Goldberg, Secretary