

**DRAFT**

## **BARNET PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING – 2/13/2025**

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.

**In attendance:** Linda Cochrane, Dylan Ford, Laura Goldberg, Becca Pedersen and Jackie Verley. Also attending: Kurtis Flanders.

### **Agenda:**

Addition to agenda: Kurtis Flanders is here to speak about establishing a seed library.

Minutes of the 1/9/25 meeting were approved.

**Board Chair Report:** None.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer not present, so no report at this month's meeting.

### **Librarian's Report:**

- 1) Praise and appreciation for new assistant librarian, Ira Wolf, by the library director. Ira's presence and contributions give Dylan the time and space to think about larger issues and projects rather than "just putting out fires."
- 2) Barnet Library will be sharing a writing group, "Writing for Flood Recovery," with Peacham Library. The group will be led by Bess O'Brien, who got a grant for doing this. The group will meet at the Barnet library every other week. The first meeting will be in Peacham on 3/11/25.
- 3) The seed swap organized by Emma Ricci went very well; 17 people participated. Dylan is looking for ways for the library to facilitate community-building activities, in light of the reactions to national politics she has observed among library patrons – alienation, anxiety, and a loss of feeling connected and having agency. An umbrella title for this might be "Barnet Resiliency Series." The seed swap could be the first of several programs/workshops with the theme of food self-sufficiency. A couple of ideas for workshops were mushroom cultivation and food fermentation.
- 4) Cribbage. When Ira begins working Sunday afternoons in March, he plans to offer cribbage during his 2-5 pm shift. This will fill a hole left by the closing of the West Barnet cribbage location.
- 5) The first "Introduction to the Bible" class took place on 2/12/25, and was very well-attended (26). This is being led by the interim pastor of the West Barnet Presbyterian Church. The moveable bookshelves again proved a very successful expenditure, allowing space to be made for this large group, a slide projector, and a large screen. The library is pleased to be able to fill a community need by hosting this class while the church is not available due to some renovations.
- 6) Summer Reading: The theme this year is "Color Our World." Dylan is thinking about a series of art activities for this.
- 7) Book purchasing: The board discussed different ways the library can acquire books. There was agreement that we try to utilize local bookshops (Boxcar & Caboose, The Village Bookshop in Littleton) more and rely on Amazon less whenever feasible. Dylan has done bulk pricing via Boxcar & Caboose in the past and found them very agreeable to work with. This is another way of connecting with local communities and benefitting local businesses.

**Art at the Library Update:**

- 1) The Felting Workshop ended up having just 3 people attend, although 6-7 had signed up. Sheri Schenk is willing to do another workshop in the spring, with a seasonal theme of bird's nests. Older people in the community enjoy many of the Art at the Library workshops, but have commented that they do not like to go out when it is dark or will be night when they go home; some would prefer a daytime, weekend meeting time.
- 2) March Open House: It was decided that there is enough going on at the library that an open house is not necessary at this time.
- 3) Game Night: This will be 2/18/25.

**Old/Continuing Business:**

Monthly BPL Policy Review: The board reviewed the Library Mission Statement, which was just revised last month. The Confidentiality Policy is up-to-date. The Choice & Consent Policy was edited for clarity and brevity, and motion to approve with rewording carried unanimously.

**New Business:**

Seed Library: Kurtis Flanders attended the board meeting. He has started a Barnet Seed Library page on Facebook. He is experienced with nonprofits and fundraising. There is already a core team of people with a variety of relevant experience ready to get this started, including Kurtis, an arborist, a farmer and someone with knowledge of plant genetics. The underlying purpose of this group is food security and food independence. It will be a library program rather than one that just takes place in the library. As noted above, there is clearly local interest in seed swapping and gardening, judging by the attendance at the seed swap. Front Porch Forum was a primary means of communicating the initiation of this group locally, as well as Facebook and Instagram. Local print media (Caledonian-Record and the North Star Monthly) were recommended as ways to get in touch with the older generation who do not get their information from the Internet.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 pm.

Next meeting will be on March 13th at 7:00 pm. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month, with the exceptions of December and July.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Goldberg, Secretary