

**ABBOTT MEMORIAL LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
January 17, 2022**

The January 17, 2022 meeting took place via Zoom.

The meeting began at 7:05 PM.

Present: Anne Bower, Susan Burgess, Tina Clifford, Betsy Rhodes, Jean Souter, Mary Worrell, and Cory Smith, Librarian.

The agenda was reviewed and adopted. The November 15, 2021 minutes were approved and the December 13, 2021 special meeting minutes were approved after a word correction was made. (inter library loan service, not intra)

REPORTS

Librarian: Cory reported that things were going well, although a bit slow but typical for this time of year. There have been some new patrons coming in. She and Sue made 50 craft bags for the holidays and 48 were picked up.

The Chinese New Year zoom program is set to go with three registered participants so far. About 25 craft bags will be made for that event on February 6 at 3:00pm. Anne Bower will host the one hour program. Another notice will be sent out by Anne and Cory will make a sign for the front of the library along with posting it on the website.

Cory submitted the Public Library Report, which covers statistics for 2021, on December 31.

Will Coates would like to do his Eagle Scout project for the library. He spoke with Cory and had a few suggestions for using the outdoor space. Cory asked for the trustees' input, and after a discussion it was decided that a picnic table or Adirondack chair(s) would be the favored choices. Cory will bring these ideas back to Will.

Building and Grounds: Betsy reported that the radon level is up a bit, common for this time of year.

The new filters have arrived for the air exchanger.

There has been no word yet from John Barnes with an updated estimate for the foundation work.

Betsy will talk to Jane Metcalf about the garden and which plants can be safely moved before the foundation work begins.

Hay bales, donated by Anne Bower, have been inserted into the bank across the street near the vulnerable part of the stream.

Treasurer: Susan emailed the monthly financials to us.

She expressed appreciation to Betsy, Cory, and Anne for help getting the financial documents ready and sent out for the Town Report.

Development: Mary reported that many donations came in already and that most of the thank you notes had been written. Thank you Mary, for successfully taking on such a big job.

Community Outreach: Tina was able to contact Roisin Sorahan, a local author who wrote *Time and the Tree*. She is willing to come and give a talk at the library, with Anne leading an interview and discussion. If it's agreeable to the author, a date was set for Sunday, May 15 at 3:00 with a rain date of May 22. It was suggested that Cory get a couple of copies of the book ahead of time.

Tina was not able to reach Sarah Stewart Taylor, another local author, but she will continue to try to contact her.

The upcoming Chinese New Year Program on Zoom was covered in both the Librarian's report and Old Business.

Chair: Anne brought up the recent icy state of the library's parking lot which Teagos maintains. They have been alerted to please do a better job.

OLD BUSINESS

Chinese New Year Zoom Program: covered in Librarian's report

Vermont Reads: Anne has not yet heard back from Jennifer Maxham from the Senior Center regarding their possible involvement. After a short discussion, Anne suggested that the library at least host a book talk about *We Contain Multitudes* that she would lead, given that she is very familiar with the book's format. We thought Sunday, May 1 might work.

Susan suggested another interesting idea for a library program, possibly this summer. It would center around the various historic cemeteries in Pomfret that she has been researching. She thought Alan Graham might be willing to help her with

organizing this.

Energy Audit & radon mitigation: Susan suggested that we might get Efficiency Vermont to help us with the audit. After a discussion, it was decided to wait to have the audit (and radon mitigation work if needed) after the foundation work was completed this spring. Susan volunteered to make the contact with Efficiency Vermont soon, so we can get on their schedule and have the audit done sometime after June.

AV equipment: We'll talk about it in our February meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Operating budget: It has been finalized and sent to the town.

New Trustees: Since we have not found anyone yet, Anne will advertise the positions on the listserv.

Board Goals for the coming year: We reviewed the 2020-2021 goals and met most of them. We will carry forward the Zoom programs for at home patrons and continue to monitor radon levels. Additional goals for the next two years are;
1. working with the town and Teagos on our parking lot and stream bank restoration/stabilization and
2. having the foundation repair work completed and the garden restored.
Anne will write these up and send them out to the board members.

Annual Librarian Meeting: Anne, Tina, and Cory will meet soon.

Portrait Restoration Update: Betsy and her mom, Joanna Long, brought the portrait to Randy Smith in early December. There were many layers of paint and the cleaning is coming along nicely. It should be finished in late January/early February. Fiona Blundin from Bridgewater will repair and clean/repaint the frame. Betsy found out the smaller painting of the landscape was done by the son of a renowned painter. This will be repaired and cleaned up by Randy Smith also. We will have it reframed by a local person.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

The next Board of Trustees Meeting will take place at 7 PM on Monday, February 21, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Souter