

ABBOTT MEMORIAL LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
May 20, 2019 Meeting

The meeting began at 7:09 PM.

Present: Anne Bower, Betsy Rhodes, Jean Souter, Tina Clifford, Tessa Westbrook, and Cory Smith, Librarian.

Absent: Nancy Merrill

The agenda was reviewed and adopted. The minutes from April were amended and approved.

REPORTS

Librarian: Cory presented a report which will be attached to these minutes.

Building and Grounds: The radon levels are fine this month. Betsy is waiting to hear from Ron Waters in regard to what sealant to put on the crumbling basement wall due to excess moisture this month. She has not yet heard from John Syme about the basement window sill repair. She has Steve Thomas' contact information and will ask him about the antique map and religious booklets found in the attic. She and Cory will put out the small table, and possibly the pallets, for give away when the weather gets better.

Betsy and Cory met with Jane Metcalf for the final garden plans. Since then, Jane has remade the front garden with new, rescued, and remaining plants from the original garden.

Cory and Jane will be reimbursed for the plants they bought. After a discussion, it was decided to mark the garden expenses in the budget under line item 66500-Other Expenses, Misc..

There is a large swath of invasive Lily of the Valley in the south side of the building which needs to be dug up. Jeannie will try to get to it this week. Betsy will remove the remaining roots near and in the stone wall foundation.

Betsy and Ron Rhodes put around 50 willow stakes and a few small dogwood trees in the bank across the street to try to hold back erosion. Betsy coordinated this effort with Art Lewin . The road crew started to dump large stones where the erosion is severe on the northern side of the parking lot (near where the brook turns).

Mowing seems to have been done once by Dan Maxham's crew. Once Cory confirms with the Coates family about Will's offer to maintain mowing for his scouting project, Anne will call Dan to thank him and ask if he will fill in when Will's project is over.

Treasurer: Nancy was unable to attend the meeting, but she sent the latest budget information. She also asked us to start thinking about our end of year budget and assets in our checking account. We received a note from Nancy about staying on as Treasurer only until next March due to changing work and family commitments. We will be looking for a treasurer to replace her and feel very sorry to lose her.

Development: There are no updates.

Community Outreach: The Appalachian Trail talk, by Heather Durkel and her husband,

will take place at the library on Tuesday, June 18th at 7 PM. Tina and Cory will make sure her power point presentation is compatible with our projector.

Chair: Elizabeth Peebles from the Historic Preservation Division of the Vermont Community Development Department met with Anne and Cory on May 16th. She was happy that we already have a disabilities policy and web site in place. She was very helpful and spent lots of time going over the possibilities of making our building accessible. There are limitations due to expense and space. One suggestion was to write a planning grant which allows us to hire an architect to offer different plans. There are also some ADA Federal Grants. Because we have an old historic building, we may be granted a variance for some of the requirements. Anne will take a look at the grants.

OLD BUSINESS

Upcoming Programs and Events: The Backyard Composting Workshop put on by GUVSWMD is on Thursday, May 30 at the Pomfret Town Offices. Anne will post it on the listserv and the Front Porch Forum. Cory will make posters. Betsy will contact Hamm for flyers and the trustees will provide light refreshments; cookies, water, and cider. The Covered Bridges Half Marathon will be on June 2nd. We have 4 people help with the race.

NEW BUSINESS

From the Trustees' Calendar: Cory will call Peter Gebhardt about installing the window screens.

We reviewed our Long Range Plan, and felt that we were on track.

We reviewed and re-approved our Operating Policies, Investment Policy, Year-end Budgetary status, and our manner of paying bills. Anne will send out the policies with new dates via email.

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 PM

The next Board of Trustees Meeting will take place at 7 PM at the library on Monday, June 17, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Souter