

Minutes of the September 8, 2021 Trustees Meeting

Present: Karen Herman, John Hess, Mark Yanowitz, Tony Straceski, Marilyn Santagati, Laurence Lamagna, Barbara McNamara, Kim Lynn, and Carolyn Fantini (remotely)

Minutes: **The Minutes of the April 14, 2021 meeting were approved as moved by John Hess and seconded by Tony Straceski.**

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report as of August 31, 2021 was accepted as moved by Tony Straceski and seconded by John Hess.

Public Comments: None

New Business

- The library sustainability committee has presented a proposal to bring live plants back to MHL. Although they are unanimously supportive of the idea, more information will be needed regarding the cost and care of the plants.
- The patio umbrellas will need replacing by next summer due to extensive fraying and wear. The vendor will be contacted about obtaining original fabric, costs and lead time.
- Holiday lights will be funded by the Town this year. Larry would like to have Samantha's give us a quote to hang a fresh garland on the fence and decorate and light the posts with fresh greens as well.
- Marilyn agreed to become the Liason to the Friends of the Library, an idea the Friends recently proposed.
- Janet Nicosia and Joe Sgrosso from Facilities visited to see all the potential projects the Library would like considered for future capital improvements. They will fund and spearhead most and prioritize them going forward. Barbara listed several that they will include in their plans that she distributed. During the discussion, Mark mentioned development of the north side of the building and offered to take the lead on exploring several greenspace possibilities possibly with Select Board member Chris Huntress.
- It's time to develop a new strategic plan. Barbara would like to contract with Sage Consulting Services to assist in creating a new five-year strategic plan. The Trustees voted to move forward with developing a new plan and contracting with Sage Consulting to help facilitate.

Director's Report

- **Building**
 - All computers are now up and running and most chairs have been returned to their places in the building having been removed due to COVID restrictions.
 - The new people counters are extremely accurate and we have been averaging between four and five hundred patrons per day.
- **Services**
 - The library will be open it's full pre-pandemic hours beginning this Sunday, September 12th, for the first time since March 2020.
 - The ARIS report was completed and signed by Karen and Barbara and she handed out comparison statistics.
 - Barbara is working on the Financial and Compliance forms. We will not need a waiver.

Assistant Director's Report :

- Kim reported that due to what she feels is a shift in priorities, and many of our regular staff not wanting to work as many Sundays as they used to, we needed to hire more

Sunday help. Four people were hired from within the consortium and who are trained on our ILS, and ready to work beginning 9/12/21.

- One part-time Children's staff member resigned and was replaced by an Andover resident and a new Children's Aide was hired.
- Larisa Shvarts is retiring after many years in November. Because she manages the Russian collection, and the Chinese language consultant left, Barbara is hoping to hire a librarian with strong language skills to support at least one of those collections.
- Staff members that were out due to maternity leave and unexpected medical issues are back, although others are now out.

Old Business

- The restoration of the old poster found in the eaves was revealed. It will be hung on Level one on the wall in Circulation near the fireplace. Karen suggested a facsimile of the restored poster be created into a giveaway of some kind to be handed out to library visitors during the Town's upcoming anniversary celebration. Some options will be explored.
- It was decided that Barbara will contact the people who were pricing the restoration of the George Washington portrait to see if they are still interested in doing the work and to get new quotes since the project was abruptly halted when Covid hit.

Adjournment at 5:30 pm as moved by Karen Herman and seconded by Larry Lamagna.
The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 4 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Vicki Murphy for Carolyn Fantini