



**Library Board of Trustees  
Meeting Minutes  
February 25, 2021  
3:00 PM  
Online, via Zoom**

APPROVED  
03/25/2021

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Becky Ketchum, Chair  
Margaret O'Connell, Vice Chair  
Kathy Wilder  
Sallie Wilder

**STAFF PRESENT**

Richard LaBelle, Town Manager  
Robin Wilson, Librarian

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Marnie Bottesch, Secretary

There were no other members of the public present.

Becky Ketchum meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM.

**Potential Uses for Eastman Fund**

- Marnie suggested digitizing photos and documents from Sophie May Library; Sallie is supportive of this proposal.
- Margaret suggests focusing on more diverse books, as well as Maine books.
- Kathy suggests Maine authors.
- Robin doesn't have any suggestions for the funds.
- By the April meeting, it may be possible to visit Sophie May Library and also think more about the books that members would like to see.
- Becky suggests maps of Maine and/or the local area. Kathy expresses support for this proposal.

**Curbside Marketing**

- Marnie suggested 'Read 3 books, get one free' or a similar offering for children.
- Margaret suggested expanding programming beyond children to encourage curbside service
- Sallie believes that free crafts, etc. will be a draw; Margaret concurs.
- Robin did not have any new ideas. She stated that Facebook was the primary tool for marketing.

**Update Regarding Library Promotion for Children**

- Becky inquires about flyer placement around the community; a draft for the month's craft activity was sent to Becky for preliminary review. Robin has five crafts proposed for distribution in March. She briefly discussed the available crafts and the process of completing each one. Sallie suggests that children should have to check out a book in order to get a craft. Kathy doesn't believe that the books shouldn't be the most important part of the program presently; it is important to have children make a connection to the library. Once the pandemic is over, a focus on in-library activities should be expanded.
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- Becky also suggests that the librarian follows up with the children after the craft to suggest books related to the craft or activity.

### **PROMOTIONS: EASTER & PASSOVER**

- Becky inquired regarding the plan to recognize these two observances. Robin states that usually a display would be done at the library. She plans to select children's books for advertisement. Becky suggests that we include a children's reading list with curbside pickups for upcoming events.

### **ONLINE STORY HOURS**

- Robin stated that online story hours were done on Facebook, but weren't effective. Becky inquired as to finding a local person who may be willing to record for online posting. This continues to be an opportunity for improvement.

### **BOOK PURCHASES**

- Becky reviewed the common practice for book purchases and the process for future acquisitions. The current practice includes suggestions from patrons, the librarian, and trustees. Each of those involved should submit suggestions to Becky with a 'blurb' the Thursday before the meeting. The compiled list can then be sent to the trustees and librarian for discussion at the next meeting. The budget is approximately \$250 per month. A decision on purchases will be made at the monthly meeting and the purchases will be completed shortly after. Ideally, a review of the New York Times Bestseller List should be considered, as well as suggestions from a variety of other sources.
- Sallie suggests that having an idea on what types of books that people are checking out would be valuable insight into the future selection process. Sallie also states that she believes this would be more productive if the library was open for browsing.
- Of the 22 books submitted for consideration, the following were voted to be acquired. Total estimated price is \$115.02. The list will be revisited in another two weeks to consider placing an additional order.
  - *A Faithful, But Melancholy Account of Several Barbarities Lately Committed* by Jason Brown (paperback, \$14.20)
  - *How to Avoid a Climate Disaster* by Bill Gates (hardcover, \$14.26)
  - *The Exchange* by Vaughn Hardacker (Amazon paperback, \$16.99)
  - *Dog Flowers* by Danielle Geller (hardcover, \$14.28)
  - *Here for It* by R. Eric Thomas (hardcover, \$13.75)
  - *Exciting Times* by Naoise Dolan (hardcover, \$14.81)
  - *Jenny and the Cat Club* by Esther Averill (hardcover, \$12.97)
  - *We Are Water Protectors* by Lindstrom and Goade (reinforced, \$13.76)
- Becky notes that if we continue to acquire books, we must consider the implications of planned weeding.
- It is noted that in Trustee meetings moving forward, calls to the Library should be allowed to go to the answering machine.

### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

- Sallie inquired about the general maintenance for annual fire extinguisher inspections by an outside party. There was also a frozen sewer line at Mercer Road that required attention.
- The Town Manager reported an update on the process for seeking prices on heat pumps.
- Becky provided an update on the photo contest for the town report. Becky hand-delivered a copy of the report to John Keister, the selected winner.
- The next meeting is scheduled for March 25, at 3:00 p.m. Margaret notified the Board that she will be unable to attend.

The meeting is adjourned at 4:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard LaBelle  
Town Manager