

Scituate Town Library Board of Trustees' Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2024

Scituate Town Library - Hybrid Meeting

TOWN OF SCITUATE, MA COMMITMENT STATEMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND
INCLUSION

The Library Board of Trustees is committed to providing an environment of respect during meetings. We ask all members to interact in a polite manner even when there is a disagreement. We value the participation of our community and want all participants, including marginalized and minoritized communities, to feel welcome and respected. We ask our committee members, and all who participate, to commit to these standards to support and respect our community.

Meeting called to order at 6:31 pm. In attendance: Trustees-Kevin Carleton, Elizabeth Holthaus, Chris Mirarchi, Sheila Kukstis, Carol Sullivan-Hanley and Ginny Ayers.
Director - Jessi Finnie. SLF President - Joe McNally

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes for the December meeting were approved as revised.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

SCITUATE LIBRARY FOUNDATION:

It was a good finish to the year with a great response to the thank you/solicitation letters sent out to the existing donors.

The SLF will be hosting a mini-golf fundraiser, sponsored by Liberty Bay Credit Union, on Saturday evening, 3/23, and Sunday morning, 3/24. The Saturday portion will be an adult event with food and beverage available while the Sunday portion will be a children's event with no food or beverage inside the library. This is an effort to bring in both the children and parents of younger families.

A motion was made by CS-H, seconded by SK and unanimously approved to approve the opening of the Library after hours on Saturday evening (6-9pm) with Jessi in attendance and prior to opening on Sunday morning (9am-noon). The food vendor will have the necessary Scituate permits and the SLF will pay the requisite town cleaning fee.

The next event is expected to be hosted with Untold Brewery with a "banned books" theme.

FRIENDS OF SCITUATE LIBRARY:

The holiday sale was quite successful with \$1,000 brought in during the week of the sale and a total of \$2,100 including the weeks leading up to the sale.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The State's legislative agenda has been received. Jessi emphasized that efforts to maintain library funding in recent years have been very successful thanks to the significant and effective advocacy of trustees, foundations members and friends.

Representative Patrick Kearney: patrick.kearney@mahouse.gov

Senator Patrick O'Connor: Patrick.OConnor@MASenate.gov

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Building update-

Power Outage - The Library served nearly 1,200 visitors over two days during the recent power outage. On Monday the Library was able to offer both power and internet although internet was not available on Tuesday. While the volume itself is not unusual, the fact that most of the visitors in this case stayed for most of the day (until internet was lost around 5pm) resulted in virtually every seat filled. This was extremely challenging for the staff, each of them was extremely accommodating and helpful. Jessi noted that while the staff was ok to be working on Tuesday when the power was still out, there were significant challenges for the staff members that had to venture home late in the evening with downed trees and no street lights and when there was an Emergency

Order in place. The idea of either closing the Library at 5pm when the wifi was lost and the majority of the patrons had left or offering the staff that stayed hazard pay as is provided to various shelter staff was discussed. Jessi communicated to the Trustees that she expects to hear from the union representing the librarians. This being the first storm during which the Library was open thanks to the new generator, it is evident that more clear expectations of staff during storms where Emergency Orders are in place are needed. Most other libraries (all in the OCLN) where closed during the actual storm.

The Children's Room Learning Center design and specifics materials have been tweaked and it is expected to arrive late February or early March.

Jessi is investigating options to replace many of the lower level seats & chairs which are well worn. She is looking at "chair and a half" options (used often by caregivers reading to children) and is working with the SLF on possible funding.

Thoreau's Waye- When Thoreau's Waye was winterized, the gutters were disconnected from the rain barrels and left open. Unfortunately, this led to episodes of flooding during recent storms until the source was identified. While no one was at fault, it reiterated the need for ongoing communication between Northern Oak, the Goulding Family, the SLF, Facilities, DPW and the Library, namely a calendar/checklist for that space. It was also mentioned that this portion of the building has flooded somewhat regularly since 1978 as it is the section that is built into the hill. It was also noted that not installing the generator during the construction of the building resulted in it being installed after the waterproofing of the foundation, resulting in new penetrations of the foundation wall. It will be monitored going forward.

General Library News-

A motion was made by CM, seconded by CS-H and unanimously approved to amend the following Trustee Meeting dates:

April 8 moved to April 1

July 8 cancelled

October 14 moved to October 7

November 11 moved to November 12

Adult Services Librarian - Jessi is still working on filling this position and has a possible candidate.

Miscellaneous -

The Library will be closed 1/15 in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

Carol Sullivan-Hanley and Sheila Kukstis both have terms ending in 2024 and will need to be re-elected in May.

Incident Reports:

12/14/23 - An elderly individual was discovered sleeping outside the Library during a particularly cold week. Jessi spoke with the person and brought in the regional social worker and an intern from the Scituate Department of Social Work (Scituate Social Worker on leave) as well as the Scituate Police, who Jessi praised for being extremely good, kind and helpful. It was a complicated situation which emphasized the need for a protocol to be developed on how best to assist those with housing insecurity and potential mental health issues and a determination of what resources are available to do so.

12/16/23 - A couple of kids were not picked up until 15 minutes after the closing of the Library. A staff member waited and spoke with the caregiver.

12/30/23 - A child was hit in the head, given an ice pack and all was well.

The next meeting (hybrid) date is February 12, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. (Hybrid).

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:31 by SK, seconded by CM and unanimously approved.