

Scituate Town Library Board of Trustees' Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2023

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.

In attendance: Trustees-Kevin Carleton (Remote), Elizabeth Holthaus (Remote), Chris Mirarchi, Carol Sullivan-Hanley, Sheila Kukstis and Ginny Ayers.

Director - Jessi Finnie; Assistant Director – Brian DeFelice

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes for the June meeting were approved with revisions to attendance and an MBLC correction.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Joe Kelly, Chair of the Veterans' Council, and Chris Lessard presented a memorial oar for John Connor that they would like to donate to the Library. Discussion about the story of John Connor and his history in Scituate and at BC High; he had a passion for educating children.

Karen Canfield spoke to the Town's approval once a specific location was identified. There was discussion regarding the criterion for accepting donations as memorials. In this case, it was agreed that John Connor has a place in Scituate's history and such a memorial would be appropriate in the Library given his history of educating youth. Thinking is that it would be appropriate for the History Room.

Acceptance of the memorial oar was voted upon and unanimously approved.

SCITUATE LIBRARY FOUNDATION:

Ginny reported that Joe McNally presented the \$150,000+ donation to the SLF from the estate of Gloria Negri, a noted Boston Globe reporter who lived in Scituate, as well as the donation of the Learning Center for the Children's room, to the Select Board.

Bio's for Colleen Simpson and Laryssa Tierney were presented for approval to the Board. A vote was taken and they were unanimously approved.

FRIENDS OF SCITUATE LIBRARY:

The 4th annual Summer Concert Series was a success and the smaller number of concerts (4) was a plus. It was nice to see residents from the neighboring town housing enjoying the concerts.

Thoreau's Way also played an integral part. Jessi acknowledged and thanked the Friends for the tremendous amount of work that went into this concert series. The SEF funded one of the concerts and was also thanked. A concern was expressed about the safety of children running and yelling towards the performers during the performance. Perhaps a message can be put out at the beginning of future performances regarding respect for the performers and audience members.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Link to Strategic Performance webinar was provided by Jessi.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S UPDATE:

Brian DeFelice shared that the OCLN Library Crawl was a success with 340 responses (entrants who visited a minimum of 5 libraries). Scituate Town Library was one of the more popular destinations. One of the primary feedback responses was to extend the duration into a month and into the summer when school is out. Jessi complimented Brian's efforts to co-chair this event that was very popular.

Brian and Ann Lattinville gave a presentation on the Library's genealogy resources at the Senior Center which was well attended and generated a great deal of interest.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Jessi shared a colored sketch of the Library grounds prepared by Eric Kluz to show potential locations for approximately 10 benches. Eric has been such a tremendous resource in donating his time and expertise to the Thoreau's Way project as well as siting these benches.

A printout showing the type of "learning center" being contributed to the Children's Room from the SLF was circulated. The piece has been ordered and there is likely a 3-month time frame so it would potentially arrive in November. Jessi also discussed the deteriorating upholstery of two couches in the Children's Room, a solution to which will be presented to the SLF.

The weed issue in the front slope of the Library was discussed. It was cut down this spring but the roots are established and many of the original plantings have been overrun so it has all grown back. Jessi has spoken with Kevin Kelly about potentially returning outdoor amphitheater/stadium seating to this area. In addition to solving the weed problem, this would also provide another outdoor entertainment and/or educational area.

General Library News-

Staffing –

FT Children's Technician filled by Melina Halloran who has tremendous experience and already holds her MLIS.

PT Children's Technician. The position filled by Jennifer Lawrence, a former permanent employee who was filling in on a temporary basis and applied to be permanent.

Sensory Projects with SPS – "Comfort Kits" (backpacks with a variety of sensory toys, noise-cancelling headphones weighted lap blankets, etc.,) have been launched in the Children's Room and work is currently underway to develop sensory book kits in conjunction with SPS Special Education staff, Tara Sweetser, Speech-Language Pathologist.

Staff Training – The Library will be closed for one half-day to facilitate important staff training with the SPD and SFD.

Thoreau's Way Celebration to be held on September 30th. This will be a family-friendly event with a story time, crafts and light refreshments. The SLF is helping with this event.

The Library staff have been given access to Library IQ, a statistical program to help libraries take a closer look at their data and make comparisons with other libraries within the OCLN. New information has already been gleaned.

Creative Bug - The Library has added this new database for craft programs to its suite of offerings which should be available to patrons in the early fall and potentially used by the staff for programming as well.

Miscellaneous – A concern was raised about a title available in the Teen Room. The patron was provided with a copy of the collection policy. Jessi and Brian researched it; the author is an established teen author but different libraries are handling its placement differently and the series has been reclassified as Adult by the publisher. Thus it has been moved to the adult collection at the STL. A reconsideration form has not been received from the patron.

Incident Reports –

A young child was found lost by the elevators in the Library at the Summer Reading Kickoff. The child was supposed to be under the supervision of a sibling while the parent was outside.

There was a dispute between patrons that became disruptive within the Library.

The building generator did not turn off after a test cycle due to a blip in the power supply.

The Library's policy for unattended minors was clarified with a patron who thought that an elementary school program was a drop-off event.

Jessi put forward some meeting priorities for the meetings this fall.

The next meeting (hybrid) date is September 11, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Program Room.

Motion to adjourn was made by GA and seconded by CSH. The meeting concluded at 8:10 p.m.