

NCFL Board Minutes –May 11, 2022
DRAFT – minutes have not been Board approved.

Board Members Present:

Randi Walker, Betsy Winters-Russell, Rick Werwaiss, Liz Smith, Mark Reamer, Julie Kabat, Linda Murawski, Kathleen Turley, Linda Romeo, and Kim Grethen

Also present: Vicki Wills (Library Director)

- Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm.
- Rick moved to approve April 2022 minutes. All in favor. Motion passed.

414 Campaign

- Both Dottie and Liz reviewed all signatures on the petitions. The signatures were gathered to place a referendum on the November ballot to increase the funding for the library. Liz held up the petitions during the Board discussion, prior to the vote. The petitions consisting of 44 pages and contain 311 signatures. Randi explained that she has a letter that would accompany the petitions.
- Rick read the following resolution:
WHEREAS, there has been presented to the Board of Trustees of the North Chatham Free Library a petition signed by qualified votes of the Town of Chatham in a number exceeding ten (10%) per centum of the total number of votes cast for Governor in the Town of Chatham at the last gubernatorial election, asking that the following question be placed upon the ballot and voted on at the next general election of the Town of Chatham:

SHALL THE ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE TOWN OF CHATHAM FOR THE OPERATING BUDGET OF THE NORTH CHATHAM FREE LIBRARY BE INCREASED BY THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$35,000.00) TO THE SUM OF ONE HUNDERED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$100,000.00)?

And

WHEREAS, the endorsement of this Board of Trustees of the North Chatham Free Library is required before such question may be placed upon the ballot

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Board of Trustees hereby endorses the petition presented to it and directs that the following question be voted on at the next general election of the Town of Chatham:

SHALL THE ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE TOWN OF CHATHAM FOR THE OPERATING BUDGET OF THE NORTH CHATHAM FREE LIBRARY BE INCREASED BY THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$35,000.00) TO THE SUM OF ONE HUNDERED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$100,000.00)?

Rick put forward the resolution as a motion. Liz seconded the motion. All in favor of the resolution. The motion passed with all nine board members (Randi Walker, Betsy Winters-Russell, Rick Werwaiss, Liz Smith, Mark Reamer, Julie Kabat, Linda Murawski, Kathleen Turley and Linda Romeo) in attendance at the time of the vote, supporting the resolution.

- Since library funds cannot be used for a ‘Get out the vote’ campaign, fundraising efforts are underway. Kathleen estimated \$2,100 for this effort. A new bank account will be opened for the “Friends of the Library”.

Library Director’s Report

- May 11, installed a new wireless access point - APRA (American Rescue Plan Act) grant through MHLS which expanded our WIFI speed and range. Put the other Aerohive wireless access into the downstairs where it will improve reception & coverage.
- **Columbia County Fair** – six hours coverage is needed. Would anyone be willing to staff the Columbia County Libraries’ table for part of that time. Liz, Kathleen, Julie, Linda and Rick volunteered for a 2-hour shift.
- Nancy Dilley and Suzanne Cardinal, new employees are working out well. Diana Rupp’s job duties were divided, and Nancy is doing most of the work.
- Friday for Kids
 - Museum of Science & Technology miSci -Silly Putty 5/27.
- Summer programs - ‘Oceans of Possibilities’ theme - Thursday at 4 pm (most) – work in progress
 - Mad Scientist Black & Blue
 - Animal Embassy
 - Oil Painting with Robin Guthridge
 - Fish hand Puppets
 - Captain HurriCain magic & teach a trick
 - Bike the Path together with Valatie
 - Canoeing the Stockport Creek with DEC July 9, if you would like to sign up Fran Martino
 - Reggie Harris (Sunday with Arts & Culture)
 - Eco Cooking with Linda Romeo (Wed Live & Learn)
 - Rockets?
 - Tie Dyeing?
 - Water coloring?
 - Adult craft program?
- Children’s Program budget: pre-covid level was \$2500 for programs in 2017, 2018. In 2020 the budget was zero. Currently the budget is \$1500. Liz asked if the funding could be increased to \$2500. Rick suggested the request go to the Finance Committee.
- Disaster Plan Policy – Rick and Randi will review it and submit it to the full Board.

Long Range Plan

- Julie reported that the committee decided to hold off updating the Long Range Plan because so much of their time is spent on the 414 efforts. The Turning Outward Program is also on hold.

Finance Committee

- Christi has been continuing to handle our finances. Rick provided a summary of our finances and said we’re in good fiscal shape. But pointed out we do have some big expenses coming up this year such as increase in bookkeeping expenses, webpage development, ramp maintenance and plantings along fence.

- Rick also reported that he found a bookkeeper, Heather Kowalski. She will assume Christi's responsibilities after some training.

Fundraising Committee

- Randi reported the the Vegetable Garden fundraiser, is July 23, \$25 presales, and \$30 day of event.
- Rick reported on the Pig Roast on June 18, \$25. Pre-ordering required. Advance date is June 16. Linda is making the sides.

Marketing Committee

- *Nothing to report*

Building & Grounds Committee

- Anti-slips need to be reinstalled on the ramp.
- Mark reported on a possible used tent 20' x 30'. Cost is less than twice a rental.
- Problems acquiring plants for the fence because less supply and high prices. Mark ordered 40 bare-root arborvitaes which grow quickly and tall. When the plants arrive, Mark will ask for volunteers to plant. Some mature plantings may also be purchased.
- Mark still needs to pressure wash the outside of the building.

Arts & Culture Subcommittee

- All grant funds have been received, \$2,150. Wendy Gash has been developing the first draft of the press releases.
- The event on Sunday drew in 39 people. A stage and sound system were set-up.
- On June 12, Karen Halverson's program will be inside the library. Attendance may be limited because it's indoors.
- On July 24, Reggie Harris a folk singer, outdoors.

Live and Learn Subcommittee

- Heat Pumps house visits – May 24th
- Native Plants – June 15th
- Memoir Group Readings (Sunday Live & Learn) – July (Malden Bridge Community Center)
- Medicaid 101 - September
- We received \$1,000 from Bank of Green County

Executive Committee

- The Executive Committee is moving forward with creating a Personnel Committee. Linda Romeo, Kathleen Turley and Kim Grethen serve on the committee. Rick will serve as an ex officio. Rick would like other members.

Nominating & Governance

- Rick is looking for a Treasurer.

New Business

- *Nothing to report*

Rick made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 pm, Julie seconded, all in favor.

Next Library Board meeting June 8, 2022 at 7:00 pm.