

NCFL Board Minutes – March 8, 2023

Board Members Present:

Bob Weiss, Randi Walker, Mark Reamer, Kim Grethen, Linda Murawski, Linda Romeo, Liz Smith, Betsy Winters, and Julie Kabat

Also present: Vicki Wills

- Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm.
- Bob to approve the January 2023 minutes. Julie seconded. All in favor; motion passed.

Library Director's Report

- Vicki presented the Library's annual report. Highlights include:
 - Electronic materials are a large resource, and the collection has grown over the years. The Board spent some time discussing the trend of the increase of electronic materials and less tangible. Vicki discussed the change in terms of publishers purchasing agreements (reduced yearly intervals which reduces available e-books significantly). Betsy discussed the decrease in electronic book sales as reported by publishers. The discussion moved to whether we are spreading the word about all the services (including electronic materials) the library offers to younger demographics.
 - Julie raised the issue doing the Turning Outward program, offered by Mid-Hudson Library System (MHLS) which would canvass the community on services they would like to see the library offer.
 - The Live & Learn program had 220 people in attendance in 2022.
 - The Library counts the number of attendees in the Columbia County Libraries Association Programs even if patrons attending are not from our Library.
 - A big success for the year was passing the 414.
- The Board discussed the idea of holding an author event and selling collection culled and donated books at the event.
- The Board discussed the Capital Improvement Plan and agreed it should be discussed at future Board meetings to progress towards getting handicap accessibility for the lower level.
- Bob raised the issue of increasing Library hours and staffing related to the increased funding from the 414. Kim asked whether Bob had calculated the cost per hour to staff the library. Bob has those numbers. He also asked whether we should have consistent hours. Vicki suggested we hire a program person. It was also discussed as to whether we should have a program person that could write grants. Further discussion ensued about getting a grant writer. Randi suggested the Executive Committee take up the discussion about additional staff, increased staff hours and a dedicated program person.
- Vicki reported that some publishers have changed how they charge libraries for books. She suggested it may make it difficult to make yearly comparisons of the annual report.
- Mark made a motion to approve annual report 2022 as prepared by Vicki. Liz seconded. All in favor; motion passed.
- Vicki reported that the free tax preparation has been successful. NYS Tax Department supplies staff to help participants complete their tax form online.

Finance Committee

- Bob reported that he and Vicki worked on the fiscal portion of the annual report together.
- Bob also reported that he's continuing to work with our accountant Susan Van Tassel.

- Bob invested some of the funds received from the Town of Chatham in T-Bills and kept about \$50,000 aside for expenses.

Fundraising Committee

- Betsy reported that the first fundraiser will be a wine tasting in the back yard on June 3. The wine will be donated, and the sommelier is a local North Chatham person. The wine tasting will be held outdoors in the back yard of the library.
- The pig roast will be pushed to the fall.
- Troy Literacy is offering a program for woman's month. Betsy and Linda will attend the event to see another type of fundraiser we could consider.

Marketing Committee

- Nothing to report.

Building & Grounds Committee

- Mark reported that a new toilet has been installed along with a few other upgrades to the bathroom.

Arts & Culture Subcommittee

- Julie reported that the Subcommittee expects to offer seven programs in 2023.
- Dates are in place for our four 2023 spring events. Julie asked Board members to spread the word about programs planned and to share program flyers with friends. All programs are on a Sunday at 3 pm.
 - 1) March 19 – Author Kevin O'Hara. Registration required. Kevin calls himself, "Last of the Donkey Pilgrims" and walked entire perimeter of Ireland with a donkey cart. He worked as a psychiatric nurse at Berkshire Medical Center for over 30 years. He'll read a selection of his stories, followed by Q&A.
 - 2) April 23 – "Hello Bookstore," Filmmaker Adam Zax and Matt Tannenbaum, owner of The Bookstore in Lenox.
 - 3) More information to come about May 21 (outdoor theatrical reading) and June 4 (indoor author reading and conversation about activists for social justice).
- A copy of each author's book will be purchased by library and added to the collection. The authors' book sales will be their private business and are an important aspect of their presentations. Last summer, audience members were excited to purchase Reggie Harris's CDs, etc.
- Still waiting to hear about their grant request.

Live and Learn Subcommittee

- The Subcommittee met recently to plan for the next six months of 2023 programs.
- The first program will be what to do when someone dies in May which is a first in a series of programs along this topic.
- In July, an elder lawyer will speak about Medicaid and how to protect assets.
- The Office for the Aging will present a program on hospice care.
- Composting program taking place next week.

Nominating & Governance

- Nothing to report.

Executive Committee

- Nothing to report.

New Business

- Nothing to report.

Betsy made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Kim. All in favor; motion passed.

Next Library Board meeting April 12, 2023, at 7:00 pm.