

NCFL Board Agenda – November 8, 2023

Board Members Present:

Bob Weiss, Mark Reamer, Kim Grethen, Linda Romeo, Julie Kabat, Kathleen Turley, Randi Walker and Rick Werwaiss

Also present: Vicki Wills

- Meeting called to order by Rick at 7:09 pm.
- Rick moved to approve the October 2023 minutes. Kathleen seconded. All in favor; motion passed.

Personnel Committee

- Rick announced that we have offered the Library Director position to Shea Wert. Her employment letter will go out tomorrow and a start date will be determined after receipt of the letter. Vicki will remain on during the transition.

Library Director's Report

- Vicki reported on the events around the Columbia County Library Association's (CCLA) One Book One Community, featuring the Boy Who Harnessed the Wind. Rick reported that the book discussion at our library went well.
- Vick reported that the CCLA virtual program by Shawn Stevens: History of Stockbridge-Munsee Mohicans on November 6th was well attended with 125 participants.
- Vicki reported on other events held at the Library:
 - Tim Fry held a workshop on building a windmill-powered bucket on the October 28th was well attended with six kids and seven adults.
 - The Climate Smart Dark Skies event on October 28th had 17 people in attendance and was well received.
 - Hatsgiving will end on November 14th.

Finance Committee

- Bob reported that the Board discussed reducing the reserve by 50% in May or June of this year and all agreed. To formalize the action, Bob made a motion to reduce the reserve which is \$62,500 by 50% to \$31,250. Rick seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carried.
- Bob will talk to the Fundraising Committee about the appeal letter with the hope of getting out in December. This letter will discuss our new Library Director and hours.
- Bob discussed moving ahead with the front steps project in 2024 which necessitates moving monies saved for that project into the 2024 budget.
- Lastly, Bob discussed the 2024 budget which will be presented in the December meeting. He plans on reaching out to Committee chairs in the coming weeks regarding their budget plans.

Fundraising Committee

Rick reported for Betsy.

- The Committee meets next week to plan for 2024 events.

- Wreath sales have started strong but could use a big push to finish. Pickups occur at the little library on November 24th and 25th. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Dale, Kim, or Betsy.
- Kim reported that the North Chatham Day event (October 14th) was successful due to the work of the folks selling quilt raffle tickets, making chili, reading *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*, lugging and organizing books, and setting-up and breaking-down the entire event. She also noted that it was a true community effort and appreciated by the community. The sales totals were as follows:
 - Quilt \$1330 (includes entire length of sale)
 - Chili \$300 (ran out and could have sold more)
 - Books \$300 (Thanks to all of you who donated and purchased)

Marketing Committee

- *Nothing to report*

Building & Grounds Committee

- Mark reported that the gutters will be cleaned in a week or so and more fall work will take place.

Arts & Culture Subcommittee

- Julie reported on two programs in November:
 - Sunday November 12th at 3 pm — Artist John Morra, *Progress: Is That All There Is?* At his art studio. Registration required. *See flyer end of agenda.*
 - Sunday November 19th at 1 pm — Cellist Alex Prizgintas, *Bach to Rock* at the Library.

Live and Learn Subcommittee

- Vicki reported on the following programs:
 - Elder Law & Medicaid with attorney Phillip Tribble took place on October 18th with 24 people attending.
 - Life In The Past Lane: Memoir Readings took place on October 22nd with 25 people attending.
 - Exploring Energy Efficient Appliances will be held on November 14th. Suzanne Cardinal will handle the technology.
 - Linda Romeo will hold a program on cooking soups at the end of January.

Volunteer Committee

- Kim reported that online Volunteer Form has had limited responses. A press release went out but was not picked up by any outlets of note. There have been a couple of e-newsletter postings, and she plans on making it a regular part of the newsletter. Additional recruitment will take place through the signboard out front. The most successful outreach has been direct contact with people. She asked Board members to please reach out to friends and neighbors with the link to the Volunteer Form, encouraging them to offer even a limited bit of help to the Library. Many hands make light work. Kim made a strong appeal to gather more volunteers. The Board discussed a variety of ideas to gather volunteers.

Nominating & Governance

- Just a reminder that all trustees are required to complete a minimum of two hours of trustee education annually (Education Law 260-d added by Chapter 468 of the Laws of 2021). Upcoming event:
 - **Trustee Handbook Book Club: Financing & Managing Construction Projects |**
December 19th, 5:00-6:30PM | [Register](#) (This one would be really good to attend.)
- Rick discussed filling Dale's position since he resigned from the Board as Vice President. Rick made a motion to nominate Kim as Vice President to complete Dale's term until the end of the year. Julie seconded. All in favor; motion passed.

Executive Committee

Nothing to report

New Business

Nothing to report

Rick moved to adjourn the meeting. Julie seconded. All in favor; motion passed.

Next Library Board meeting will be our annual one on December 13, 2023, at 6:00 pm.