

TOWN OF KENSINGTON
Public Library Trustee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023

Kensington Public Library

4:30 pm

Meeting called to order: at 4:35 pm

Present: Susie Gilbert- Library Director; Susan Bascom – Chairperson; Lauri Murphy - Secretary; Matthew Dow - Treasurer

July and August Statistics (no meeting in August): Visits are on par with 2022. Physical circulation increased in July and August, attributed to summer visits and summer programs. Hoopla use and downloads also increased. Total circulation also increased in July and August and was also higher than 2022. The Inter Library Loan program remains strong with an increase for both months.

Library Addition Proposal Update: Trustee, Susan Bascom previously attended the social trustees meeting and today offered an update to the KPL trustees, which included reviewing the proposed architectural plans.

Google Update: Matthew Dow continued the research regarding the proposed change to Google applications for e-mail and meetings. The final cost per user for new trustee Gmail accounts was discussed (\$6 per month per user – with four users including the Trustees and the Director). With the added features of Google chat and Google meet, which will allow us to eliminate Zoom, the Trustees were unanimously in favor of signing up with Google.

EVENTS:

Summer Reading Update:

Ms. Kristin, the children’s librarian, organized and offered many events for the children of the community: after school programs, early release activities as well as a successful summer reading program with almost 100 children participating. We also had a reading program for adults and teens with over 90 enrolled. Summer events included but were not limited to field day, pizza and movie night, a wildlife learning event at Sawyer Park, a museum presentation, an art event and the popular ice cream social.

Book Fair Update: The Friends of Kensington Library Book Sale netted \$953.50 which included a \$50.00 donation. Last year, the net was \$813.25 which included \$150.00 in donations. This is a 36% increase (\$240.25) in sales. The Friends of KPL decide which library programs to support with their donations. The trustees and library staff are thankful for their generous work and fundraising.

Upcoming Events:

September 20th, Jane Oneail (on Zoom) presented a discussion on the Art of Jackson Pollack and Lee Krasner. This event was attended by 15 people.

Wednesday, Sept. 27th at 7 PM (in person): Jo Radnor presents “Wit and Wisdom: The Forgotten Literary Life of New England villages.” This event is sponsored by New Hampshire Humanities.

Wednesday, October 11 at 7 PM (in person): Christina Ashjian presents, “Exemplary Country Estates of New Hampshire.” This event is also sponsored by New Hampshire Humanities.

Saturday, October 21st from 11- 1 (in person): Julie Cyr returns to the library for another felting workshop. This time patrons will be making pumpkins.

Wednesday, October 25th at 7 PM (in person): Erin Moulton presents: “History and Mystery: A Genealogy Starter Guide.” Sponsored by New Hampshire Humanities and offered at the library.

Budget:

Budget Review for 2023 and proposed budget discussion for 2024:

Cost increases so far this year are in the heat and light, as well as supplies, materials, and equipment categories. In the upcoming weeks, the Library Director will perform an “actual to budget analysis” and will review the 2023 cost increases. The Library Director will also review the 2023 estimated payroll hours versus the actual payroll expenditure, to offer a more precise request for the 2024 budget. Proulx Propane contract savings - the new propane contract (September 2023 to September 2024) reflects a savings of \$1,400 from the previous contract year (due to less use than the 2022-2023 contract estimate). The expected savings will help offset increased electric costs.

The Director and Trustees expect to meet with Selectmen on 10/17/23 for 2024 budget review.

Misc. Topics:

Brief discussion of First Amendment Groups visiting NH and local libraries: They are welcomed as guests and may visit any public (non-personnel) spaces in the library.

Future Business:

Policy Reviews and Updates: Review personnel policy that was vetted by the attorney.

Revisit the Human Library project idea – a Goffstown, NH library program.

Next Meeting: Thursday, Oct 12th at 4:30 pm

Meeting adjourned: 6:02 pm.