

Myers Memorial Library
Board of Trustees meeting
March 15, 2022

PRESENT: Mel Feather, Larry Marvell, Paul Bell, Iza Nowak, Sue Richards, Jim Hale, Toni Stone, Bob Piede, Jason Bussman, Rhonda Haick.

ABSENT: Roxy Gray

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Mel Feather, board president.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Harold Bennett, of the Carroll Historical Society, spoke to the Board about the April 23rd opening of the historical society. This year they intend on recognizing and honoring Lloyd Moore, John Lobb, and JJ Myers. The historical society wants to place a historical marker on the library property. The cost of the bronze plaque marker is estimated at \$900-1,000, and will be purchased and completed by the historical society. Mel Feather requested the library board has a say in what is written on the marker and where it will be placed on the library property. A future conversation is to be had by the board on the subject once the historical society drafts a proposal for what the marker will say.

INTRODUCTION OF POTENTIAL NEW BOARD MEMBER: Frewsburg native and Kiantone resident Janelle Grey sat in on today's meeting. She was introduced to the board as a potential member going forward, and at the end of the meeting accepted the board's motion to make her a non-voting associate member of the Myers Memorial Library board of trustees from this point forward.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: (See attached). The minutes from the January 2022 meeting were presented to the trustees. Two minor changes were made to the minutes. Buildings/grounds: "IT has completed the assessment of their part. The rough-in electrical work has been done and approved." Also, Iza clarified that Jessica Rogers will return to the library staff this summer at no additional cost to the library. She will be working as a substitute for Rachel on days Rachel cannot work. Minutes were then approved with corrections by a motion from Jim Hale and seconded by Sue Richards.

TREASURER'S REPORT: (See attached). The board discussed the costs of the construction is currently \$25,121 over budget and the reasons for these additional costs. The board discussed that the restoration/repair of the front steps is being done by Tri-County Restoration at \$14,000.00 instead of the \$19,950.00 that was originally planned. As of Feb. 28, 2022, our investments have decreased 4.60% since the year end in 2021. CR Construction has been paid in full for septic tank and Hanson has been paid in full for the construction/renovation of the upstairs.

A motion to pay customary bills was made by Larry Marvell and seconded by Sue Richards.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: (See attached). Circulation numbers for January and February are down in comparison with last year; however, the attendance is higher than it was in January and February of 2021 so far. Despite renovations limiting the library's space, circulation is still higher than it was in pre-COVID years (2016-2018) for the first two months of the year.

Iza reported that Frewsburg Central School is once again giving the library \$9,700 for summer enrichment programming. This marks the second straight year the library received these funds, which will go towards enhancing our summer reading program, which this year has the theme of oceans. Iza's plans involve story time at the elementary school gazebo, Wednesdays at the Town Park, sea glass and driftwood arts and craft sessions, as well as continuing our partnership with TRZ every Tuesday throughout the summer. She is looking into a possible having the Whalemobile come to Frewsburg, which is an interactive, inflatable whale that kids can walk inside.

Iza proposed a sidewalk chalk art fundraiser, and will be providing the board with more information and dates to make the fundraiser happen.

The board went over the survey questions and answers, and used them as a conversation point for what is going well and what we could improve on in the future.

BUILDING & GROUNDS: Paul Bell started the conversation about the status of the upstairs renovation project. "Hanson did a really nice job" with the whole project. Bob Pieder commented on how "the lights are perfect." The board agreed that the bright color has changed that entire space, making it even more welcoming of an environment. Iza stated that Colecraft has loosely confirmed May 20th as the completion date for the furniture, and agreed to install items as they are completed.

The CODE officer visited the library and had a few requests. The front door must open outward into the front foyer and not into the library in order to be CODE compliant. It is acceptable if the door swings both ways. The new upstairs bathroom window needs an additional grab bar. If the library is allowing patrons up the new stairs, then the glass windows need to be tempered glass. If we don't allow patrons up those stairs, then the glass currently there is acceptable. The board's plan is to buy a velvet rope and not allow the general public up those stairs. Paul Bell is planning on following up with the CODE officer in the near future.

The elevator is all set and awaiting a state inspection sticker from Ace Elevator Inspection.

The board of trustees discussed the purchasing and installing of new heavy duty vinyl plank flooring in the front vestibule. Moran's quote came in at \$2,525.00 for new floor and stair tread. The motion to proceed was proposed by Jim Hale and seconded by Sue Richards.

The board discussed the installation of a staff-only parking lot on the Falconer Street side of the library, which was approved with one vote in opposition to the creation of said parking lot. CR

Construction proposed the creation of three spots, with heavy stone and smaller stone at a cost of \$2,975.00. The motion was proposed by Larry Marvell and seconded by Sue Richards.

The final topic of conversation on the buildings and grounds was the removal of the bushes out front. Tri-County needs access to the side of the front steps in order to restore them, so the board approved the removal of all six bushes and tabled a discussion on how to replace those bushes in the future. The landscaping motion for bush removal was proposed by Jim Hale and seconded by Bob Piede.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS:

Jason Bussman reported his notes from Library Advocacy Day. Assemblyman Joseph Giglio did not show up and sent a liaison in his stead, and Sen. George Borello fielded questions from several librarians and board members from area libraries. The governor's rollback of aid to \$14 million was discussed, and frustration was voiced. Sen. Borello discussed how the library is an "essential service" and expressed the "need to support those organizations that supported us." He also spoke of "the return on our investment in libraries is very good" and libraries should have bipartisan support across the board.

The motion to adjourn was made by Bob Piede and seconded by Larry Marvell.

The next board meeting will be May 17, 2022 at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Bussman, Board member