

Bedford Village free Library
Board Meeting Minutes
April 17 2024

Attendance: Scott Harrison, Ann Cloonan, Caroline DeFilippo, Artika Loganathan, Alison Todd, Colleen Gelfand

Via zoom: Ted Eigel, Olivia Peters

Minutes: approved from prior meeting

414 Funding overview

Summary of 4/5/24 meeting and subsequent webinar discussed. Key points include:

- Tend to get more funding through 414 process (90% of town budget supported on average)
- Reliability of funding secured once initial vote established (if subsequent budgets do not pass, revert to funding from initial year)
- Can be approached as 3 individual libraries or as one unit
- Town still has discretion to provide additional funds

Logistics to make this happen by 5/24/24 include (assuming all 3 libraries go forward as a unit)

- Majority vote by all 3 library boards
- Petition signed by 25 people
- Paperwork to state (Done by town)
- 2025 budget creation
- Agreement on proposed budgets across all 3 libraries
- Subsequent to 5/24/24 until vote, significant education of community needed

It was noted that if the libraries pursue funding as individual unit(s) this could have implications on voter perception, future funding

Concerns discussed

- Rushed process
- May not be able to achieve consensus among 3 libraries
 - Directors to meet 1st week of May
- Confused public message if 1 or more libraries seek 414 alone and subsequent impact on funding to libraries that do not seek funding via 414
- Significant education of public needed and unclear mechanisms to achieve this in absence of Record Review and defined funding for this process
- Impact on annual appeal timing
- Impact of expected larger voter turnout 11/24 due to being presidential election year

Key question for follow up: How is the wording on the ballot presented and do we have any control over it? Does it include the individual budgets and a reference of the prior years budget or only reference that it is a 100% increase since it was previously not presented to the voters

Scott to follow up on this

Strategic goals in order of preference

- Ideally postpone process until 2025 to allow for due diligence, consensus and education
- All 3 libraries apply for 414 as a unit in 2024

- If 1 library seeks funding alone, consider moving forward similarly as an independent unit

Directors Update

- Donations getting processed by Robyn in coming days/week
- Poetry contest deadline 4/30/24
 - Flyers in BVES backpack notes, FLMS/FLHS, Rippowam and Hawthorn School
- Ice cream social 5/22/24
- 2 upcoming author talks: Carola Lovering 4/25 and 5/9 with local authors speaking about journey to publishing
- Poetry class well received and completed by Dr Diyanni
- Create and Grow Salad Bowl with Bedford Farms sold out immediately and 2nd time slot added due to positive feedback
- Museum passes expanded to include Empire Pass and Westchester Children's Museum
- Staff update: Linda Krensky retiring after 15 years, her replacement was discussed
- Parking: Presbyterian Church previously allowed for parking for library patrons/employees. Now charging \$320/spot annually. They have gifted 10 spots to the BFL and board agreed to purchase 2 additional spots.

Governance

- Olivia Peters to be stepping down to the role of advisor after the June meeting. She has served as a Trustee since October 2020
- Will need to replace role of secretary
- Additional brainstorming regarding new trustee members

Meeting Adjourned 8:22PM