

Bedford Village Free Library
Board Meeting Minutes
May 5, 2021

Attendance (via Zoom):

Ann Cloonan, Ted Eigel, Colleen Gelfand, Scott Harrison, Ray Infarinato, Olivia Peters, Margaret Scott. Rob Oden missing.

Board Governance Notes:

Minutes from the April Board meeting approved.

Financial Update:

Ted reviews current financials. Our financial position remains sound. Cash assets are currently following the annual trajectory. Payment from The Town of Bedford has been received. The application for forgiveness of the PPP loan continues to be under review. Flow of funds continues to be on track. The Annual Appeal reminders were very effective.

HR Report: As Rob was unable to attend the meeting, Ray gave an abbreviated report on the results of the annual staff survey. Rob will provide more details at the next Board meeting.

- Six of eight staff members responded.
- All were very positive about the running of the Library and how they had adapted to the many issues around Covid - for example the handling of book clubs, the grab-and-go opportunities, the system for distribution of Library material etc.
- They all said how much they miss seeing the patrons.
- They appreciate the staff's strong team spirit and support of one another.
- They are particularly appreciative of Ann's leadership, both generally and specifically, during the last year.
- They felt that the Board was supportive, understanding and engaged with them.

Director's Update:

Planning for Phased Reopening and Staff Update

The Library is on track to open to the public June 1. Ann is waiting on specific guidelines from the State, the CDC and WLS as to how this will be done.

Since the last meeting the Library has expanded its hours of opening by appointment - 1 hour longer each weekday and Saturdays.

Pages - Kelly and Maureen held a zoom meeting with the Pages to discuss their return to work, which will be in June. They will need retraining to bring them up to speed with the new systems. Ann will also come up with a plan regarding where each will work in order to maintain social distancing.

Children's programming

Kelly's weekly Storytimes will continue throughout the summer, either via Zoom or on the Village Green.

Poetry Contest, which closed April 30, had 68 entries. Robyn noted a welcome return of participants from two classes at Rippowam Cisca. There were also many entries from students at Fox Lane High School. The entries are being sent to the judges, Mark Ciccone and Katherine Dering. The results should be announced by the end of May.

Kelly has seen a resurgence of interest in children's book clubs. To date two new groups have been formed.

Summer Programming

In keeping with this year's theme of Tails and Tales, kickoff will be Animal Bingo and is scheduled for June 17 on the Green. It will be a family event and numbers will be limited.

Kelly plans to do a combination of online, grab and go, and as many programs outside as possible. She will do a full presentation of the plans at the next meeting.

YA programming

Maureen and Christa are working on a new community event.

Adult programming

Due to the popularity of the Intermediate Italian Language and Culture, which is in collaboration with Armonk Library, it will continue through June.

Dr. DiYanni reported a good attendance of 15 people for his series on Romantic Poetry - this was in collaboration with Pound Ridge Library.

Farm and Victory Garden Talk also had a good attendance of 30 people. This was in collaboration with Lewisboro and North Salem libraries.

DNA and Genealogy - scheduled for June in collaboration with Lewisboro Library.

Author Talks

Carola Lovering, who grew up in Bedford, will discuss her recently published second book, "Too

Good to be True”.

Steven Carino, a local author and very loyal patron, will discuss his two books about his dog Oliver, “Oliver: the True Story of a Stolen Dog and the Humans He Brought Together”. As he wrote an adult and a children’s version of this true event, this will be a family book talk.

E-rate

Ann reported that the Library has been approved for 60% of the cost for internet upgrades. She’s waiting to hear about the cabling and wireless application.

Annual Appeal

This continues to do very well, raising more money and attracting more donors than at this point last year. The spring reminders showed a strong return. The second, and final, reminder will be sent out early June. Marily Heaney, a very long term, loyal patron of the Library, died recently. Ann reported that they had received a lot of donations in her memory. Condolences to her family and friends.

Heating/ventilation:

Ray and Olivia met with Dwight Getting. Olivia reported that he gave an excellent, well prepared presentation of how to proceed with the changes required to the heating and ventilation systems. They were particularly impressed with his depth of knowledge and understanding and found him to be both credible and reasonable. The Board approved the project which, if all goes according to plan, will take approx. 6 weeks. However, between Covid restrictions and supply chain issues, it is likely to take longer. It will culminate in an updated, more efficient system, along with enhanced levels of air purity from the addition of UV lights and maximum levels of filtration.

Library Gardens

Rusticus Garden Club approached Ann about refreshing, at their expense, their side of the garden and the hardscape which they maintain at the front of the Library. This would involve new plantings and replacing the brick paving and large stones. As Rusticus is responsible for one side and Hopp Ground Garden Club is responsible for the other, this will need to be done in collaboration. Rusticus plans to use the famous garden designer, Page Dickey, for this project. The Library is very appreciative of all the work of the two local garden clubs.

WLS Update:

A new billing structure is being put in place. Currently under discussion.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.