

**Bedford Village Free Library
Board Meeting Minutes
May 4, 2022**

ATTENDANCE:

Via Zoom - Ann Cloonan, Ted Eigel, Colleen Gelfand, Scott Harrison, Ray Infarinato, Rob Oden, Olivia Peters, Margaret Scott. (Guests: Kelly Crummy, Christa Ramage)

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE:

Kelly and Christa joined for the first part of the meeting to share all their plans for Summer 2022 programming:

Storytime will continue outside but will no longer be offered on Zoom. In the last three weeks, Storytime has garnered more than 60 participants each time! Kelly and Christa are thrilled with the community support, but note that a large number of participants are nannies and babysitters. They're going to trial run a special Saturday Storytime on May 14 at 10:15am, hoping this will allow for more parents to join. If it's a success, they will likely offer Saturday Storytime once a quarter.

All "Create with Christa" crafts are now inside the library only. Lately they're noticing a lot of participation from the grades K-2 crowd, and less from the grades 3-5 crowd. They did, however, just offer a grades 3-5 STEM project with musical glasses of water and Skittles for coloring the water, and that seemed to be a huge hit as the 3-5 crowd is attracted by STEM projects/crafts.

Both Kelly and Christa noted that it is wonderful to have children back inside the library.

Next week (for the first time in 2 years!), the 3 BVES kindergarten classes will be coming through for their tours and to receive their library cards.

On June 15, the summer reading challenge will kick off at Historical Hall. The title of the event will be "Pirate School" and David Engel will be coming through to provide entertainment as a pirate. Costumes are encouraged, and each participant will go home with a foam pirate hat and foam eye patch.

Truck Day is also back after 2 years, and it will be held on June 18 (the day before Father's Day) from 10-1pm. It will be held at BVES as the Presbyterian Church is not available that day, and Kelly and Christa feel that it will be a great way for kids to learn about trucks.

This year we are trying a new summer activity: "Shark Week," from July 18-21. This event will be for all ages, and each day will offer a new activity. K-2 kids' will be Monday; Preschool kids' will be Tuesday; 3-5 kids' will be Wednesday; and Thursday will be a shark party for all K-5 kids. Participants will get a t-shirt that says, "I Survived Shark Week (at the Bedford Free Library)."

Book Buddies will also be back this summer for ages 3+. Sessions will be offered Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from July 12 - August 3. Each session will be 20 minutes long

between the hours of 3:30pm and 5:30pm. This year signups will be via Signup Genius, and registration opens June 16.

The raffle for the summer reading challenge prizes will once again be gifts cards to local businesses. This year, however, there will be 2 physical prizes at the end to earn via raffle tickets: one for K-2; one for 3-5.

Children's Programming:

The poetry contest closed and submissions will go to the judges on Friday. We had more than 75 entries, mostly from BVES and Rippowam kids. Winners will be announced at the ice cream social at the Presbyterian Church on May 25. Ice cream will be provided by The Candy Bar.

The Pete the Cat party was a success, and the Bad Kitty party for older children will be later in May.

Bedford Babies continues and we have had to turn people away as participation is so high.

Adult Programming:

The birding class was a success, knitting continues although attendance has been low (it appears that not everyone is yet comfortable indoors in a group), and the Canasta activity started. Most everything has had good turnout.

Nancy Steiner, Life Coach, is coming for an in-person event next week.

The adult book groups are back in the building, although the men's (history) book group fell apart during Covid when it could only be held over Zoom.

Miscellaneous:

All staff received their reviews and bonuses/salary increases, and felt valued and appreciated.

All volunteers are back in the library, including 4 adults.

The outside hold shelf has been suspended.

Robyn's update: She is thrilled with how the appeal is going. Compared to this time last year, we have received more money from less donors overall. The matching gifts are rolling in, and one surprise is that we didn't receive any donors from our newsletter. The official end date for the appeal is June 30th, and reminder cards will go out in June. Overall, the sentiment is that the community greatly appreciates all that we're doing.

TECHNOLOGY:

Our computers were recently down for three days (while Ann was on vacation) due to a very sophisticated ransomware attack (called "Black Cocaine") on WLS's system. It was deployed on Friday, April 22, and the attack had mostly been cleared by April 26. Unfortunately, there are still a lot of lingering issues. Fortunately, our library computers are through "network support" so our patrons can still use our computers. Libraries (including Katonah, White Plains, Pleasantville, etc.) that aren't on WLS's system had no issues. We have been exiting WLS's

system in stages, so unfortunately we were affected somewhat. Note that WLS was not initially communicative about the problem, and has provided very little communication about it since. This has been the third time that WLS's system has been attacked, so it may be worth looking into the cost of further separating from WLS.

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

Ted reviewed our financials, which continue to remain sound, although it has been a "tough market" lately. Overall we are in good shape.

Ann shared that, regarding the ARPA funds, it appears that we will be getting \$50K for some of our HVAC upgrade costs, which is terrific news! Katonah Library ignored instructions by the ToB to ask for no more than \$50K in ARPA funds, and was awarded the full amount that they asked for (\$70K).

BOARD GOVERNANCE:

Ann and Ray attended a preliminary meeting held by the ToB (with representatives from all the Town libraries) on April 18 in preparation for the more official meeting on May 24. On May 24, each library gets 10 minutes to share recent programming data, fundraising efforts, etc., to identify issues and note progress. Ray suggests that we mention our issues with WLS at that meeting.

Building and Maintenance:

Fence Replacement: we received bids from Garon, Azteca, and Architectural Gate & Fence Fabricators, and AGF dropped off a model/prototype for our consideration. We have been conveying the need for the new fence to "conform" to our existing (Lynn Ryan at BHS has said she approves our design as long as it's conforming).

The B&M Committee recommends that we accept AGF's proposal as they came in a fair price, the timeline works with our needs, and they are throwing in the fencing installation on the sides for free. The Board voted to approve the B&M Committee's recommendation. Ray will let AGF know and take the necessary steps forward so they can begin work.

The fence work needs to be completed before the garden work can begin. The garden proposal is still under discussion as Ann communicated our desire to keep the picnic tables out front, and there was some pushback about that.

Nominating Committee:

Colleen reached out to the potential candidate we'd previously identified, and that candidate is interested in a Trustee position. Ann and Ray will meet with the prospective candidate in the next month, and ideally he will attend our June meeting to meet the rest of the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18pm.