

Bedford Free Library Meeting Minutes

9/7/2022

Our meeting began at 7:05pm. Attendees: Ann Cloonan, Ted Eigel, Colleen Gelfand, Scott Harrison, Ray Infarinato, Rob Oden, and Margaret Scott

Welcome discussion and appreciation for a live meeting. Margaret joined virtually.

Review of Agenda

Financial update was led by Ted Eigel. Our financial condition is consistent with previous years, taking into consideration the calendarization of expected receipts and disbursements.

Discussion about use of QR code during Annual Appeal. The trustees thought it was a good idea if Robyn is comfortable adopting it.

Directors Update: Ann Cloonan

Annual Appeal: This year, our dollar contributions improved significantly year over year.

- Planning for 22/23 has begun.

- Request for new names/neighbors.

- The Patron Book should be ready for circulation on 9/19.

Summer programs were very successful:

- Book Buddies was very successful - use of "signup genius" was helpful.

- Online registration for all.

Bedford Babies filled up in 10 minutes.

Shark Week was a huge hit...it will be repeated next year.

Sewing Camp - 6 girls - run by the library...Chowder and Marching supported it.

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For the fall, the following is planned:

- StoryTime on the Green begins in September.

- Pre-School back porch crafts on Tuesday.

- Author Craft series by Christa this fall.

- Christa and Kelly going to Rochambeau Farm for a StoryTime twice this fall.

- November 5 – Meteorologist, Dylan Dryer, is doing a reading of her new book, signing, etc.

- Canasta Group every Tuesday (Note: This was started by someone who took the canasta class.).

- Pen and Ink drawing class in October - series of 4 classes.

Discussion of the New Garden: Agreement that the new garden looks great so far! More work to be done...seasonally. The Garden Clubs were great to work with. The cost of the garden renovation was completely covered by Hopp Ground and Rusticus.

Governance: June Meeting minutes were provisionally approved.

In August, Ray and Ann conducted an interest meeting with a trustee candidate. In addition to the role of a trustee, we discussed ways to become more engaged in support of the BFL, including as an Advisory Ambassador or in support of some of our strategic committee work.

In our trustee meeting, we also discussed how we strive to represent the demographics of our Bedford Village community. Additional candidates will be teed up, as we have at least one vacancy at year's end. Please send names for new trustee candidates to Colleen Gelfand, Nominating Committee.

Proposed October 5th meeting for a Meet and Greet with the Advisory Committee and Trustees. The Tentative time would be just prior to our regularly scheduled trustee meeting. Stay tuned.

Town of Bedford Update: Ray and Ann participated in a preliminary meeting with the Bedford Town Comptroller, Abe Zambrano, and Board Member, Bobbi Bittker, on August 26th. The date for the next quarterly Town of Bedford meeting with the three libraries is TBD. The Town would like to be kept apprised of future major spending plans.

Discussion of need for the improved audio /visual equipment. Screens, cameras, improved zoom capabilities, etc.

Started as a discussion pre-covid, it is now about expanding the definition of our BFL community. Need for author talks.

Discussion of need to expand digital spend:

Reviewed cost per circ vs. digital purchasing.

Idea: a library podcast, library space for podcasts, presenter on how to run a great podcast - or other similar ideas were discussed.

Our trustees agree that our return to face to face meetings worked well.

Next meeting: First Wednesday, October 5th at 7pm at BFL.

Our meeting adjourned 8:30pm. Minutes submitted by Colleen Gelfand.