

READFIELD COMMUNITY LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
JANUARY 11, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. It was held by Zoom. Trustees present were: Jen Bonnefond, Pat Clark, Sonya Clark, Jackie Drouin, Maureen Kinder, Pam Mitchell, Deb Peale, and Librarian Melissa Small. Excused were Michelle Fiori and Brenda Lake.

Secretary's Report: Jen made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, and Deb seconded the motion. All approved. November's minutes were approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report was approved. Jackie made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Pat seconded the motion. All approved.

Old Business

COVID Updates: Kennebec County's color is green, meaning the risk is low, so we agreed that we would post a sign saying masks are available but optional. There was a conversation regarding conducting activities inside the Library. It was agreed that it would be okay if the groups were small and the risk level remained low.

Tree Lighting Event: Everyone agreed that the Tree Lighting event was a big success, especially with the warmer temperatures and the addition of the middle school chamber chorus and its director, Adam Scarpone. Members agreed that for next year's event, the addition of some sing-along songs would be nice. Regarding cookies, it was noted that next year we should bake more chocolate chip cookies and fewer molasses and ginger cookies. Also, although we had three large containers of hot cocoa, that was not sufficient; we should plan for more next year. Finally, members agreed that we should remain at the Library for the cookies rather than walking to the town office, as we had done in the past.

Hanukkah Celebration: Approximately 10 people attended the event, which was for the most part held outside. Attendees indicated a snack preference for next year of rugelach and jelly donuts.

New business

Burns Night: The Board agreed to hold the event inside as long as the risk assessment remained low. Melissa mentioned the following regarding the event:

- Someone had offered to play a fiddle for the event.
- We need someone to do the readings.
- We need mulled cider, hot water for tea, and Scottish treats.

Librarian's Report

NEW for INFORMATION and/or DISCUSSION

Melissa advised the Board that she would be placing her Monthly Newsletter in the Library's Shared Google Docs folder.

Deb wondered if we could also use the Board's carry-over funds to pay speakers, and Melissa agreed we could, adding that Eric Dyer had asked that we use our carry-over funds. Pat suggested that we might also use the funds for a child-sized picnic table. Melissa will look into that.

Environment/Sustainability Program Series 2023 - Melissa applied for and received a grant of approximately \$2,015 so that the Library may sponsor a series of programs that are Environment/Sustainability-related. She plans to use the funds for speaker's fees for both adults and children. Authors will receive payment of \$50-100, and non-author speakers may receive payments of \$50, or at least mileage reimbursement.

Melissa also stated that the Library would be sponsoring a number of events this year for this Environment and Sustainability Series, which she will post on the libraries website. She has asked that at least one board member commit to attend each event. She will issue a schedule and ask each of us to commit to an event.

Next Summer Possible Passes

- Children's Discovery Museum of Central Maine in Waterville - Melissa advised the Board that our name is on the list of potential customers, but we will not make a decision until we know the cost.
- Maine Wildlife Park in Gray - The Board discussed obtaining a pass, which would cost \$250, which would allow patrons to get in for \$3.50 (under \$3 free), which is half price, but it was unclear if the pass could be used by multiple families on one day or if it was limited to one family per day.
- Maine State Park Vehicle Pass (if not donated)
- Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens - All agreed that last year's purchase of the park pass was a big success, but we agreed to wait to see what this coming summer's pass would cost and what it would cover.

Baker and Taylor Orders - Melissa advised that orders are still taking a long time. In fact, there were still 16 books outstanding from her September order, and as of 12/6, none of the Nov/Dec order placed on 11/10 and another 16 outstanding from the Oct order placed 9/29. She has contacted Baker and Taylor and they have advised her that there are no problems with Readfield's account. She believes these problems may still be from the company's August ransomware attacks.

Upcoming Events - Melissa advised the Board that she has/will be scheduling many events for the future, including

- January 9th - Official start of The Maine Home Food Waste Challenge.
- January 14th - Story Walk Event at 10:00 a.m. @ Library Outdoors
- January 18th - “Intro to Bendable Maine” Zoom workshop at 6:00 p.m. by Zoom.
- January 25th - Annual Burns Night Celebration at 6:00 P.M at Library
- January 26th - Author event at 6:00 p.m. at the Readfield Town Office and by Zoom with Tom Roth, 25-year regional columnist for *The Maine Sportsman*, to discuss his first book *A Sporting Year in Maine*. Part of the Environment/Sustainability Program Series 2023)
- January 30th - Library Book Group at 6:30 p.m. by Zoom to discuss “The Storied Life of AJ Fikry.”
- January 31st - Tips and Tricks for Reducing Food Waste at Home, a Zoom event starting at 6:00 p.m., which is part of the Food Rescue Maine Program and The Environment/Sustainability Program Series 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.