

Minutes for the Whitinsville Social Library Board of Trustees Meeting
October 26, 2023
Whitinsville Social Library-Director's Office

Members present:

Carol Brouwer-Chair

Charlie Thompson

Barbara Leonard-not present

John Brouillard

John W. Walker-not present

Ann Williams-recording trustee

Others:

Heather Wade-Interim Director

Albert Lameroux-Treasurer

Carol Brouwer called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.

- Motion to approve the minutes for the meeting, August 29, 2023 seconded and passed unanimously.
- **Director's Report-**
 - Heather will be the interim director and youth services librarian (so as not to lose the programming numbers as Heather is volunteering to continue in this role)
 - Brought up "sponsor a tree from the "Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter to help the homeless,' for the First Annual Festival of Trees
 - Three levels of sponsorship-they get auctioned off and the money goes to the shelter
 - No hard feelings if we decline
 - Much discussion ensued-the Friends may have more latitude, keep in mind that people donate to us and expect us to keep the funds here
- Motion to pass over this item seconded and passes unanimously
- Holiday Schedule
 - Veteran's Day-do we close, yes because we follow the town's schedule
 - Christmas-do we close on Tuesday after the holiday and on Saturday as well because no one except Heather is willing to work on the Saturday.
 - Carol mentioned the possibility of using the "job bank," through CWMARS. Heather said that there is one and she will pursue it in the future as necessary
- Printing costs & prices-Heather reports that Rebecca says that we had agreed to ten pages per student and that she wants to create a policy about this.
- The Poop Museum will be here and we are the first library in MA to have her. The program may be at Town Hall to accommodate the number of people who want to attend and the program is full!

Old Library Business

Old Business-

- Feasibility Study-the vote is 11/14 and Adam has taken over a lot of the nitty gritty

- The group will be speaking to the library a good deal and the timeline will go quickly so that we will be ready for the spring town meeting
- The town chose the group for the feasibility study and covers the cost of the study
- Fine Free vote continuation
 - One year anniversary of Fine Free Fridays
 - Slow start initially until March and then there was a big change
 - 330 items that were considered lost were actually returned
 - 1810 that were overdue were returned on Fridays
 - CWMARS wants to be the first consortium to be completely fine free
 - CWMARS wants us to know that people are returning items to libraries that are fine free so that they don't have to pay fines-which is creating a problem with the number of bins that are being spent back to us
 - Other libraries can wipe out the fines of patrons at WSL which is part of the CWMARS policy-147 libraries in Central Mass are fine free
 - Heather says that we have lost so many patrons and it makes her very upset to see that we are losing so many patrons
 - The question has been tabled until the meeting in December in accordance with the original motion made in August

New Business-

- Continuation of use of the reference room/Tween Room by Northbridge Historical Society for 4 meetings per season
 - Heather mentioned that it could work if a few conditions were met
 - If it is done during open library hours, people would need to be allowed to browse
 - The room would need to be cleaned by the Historical society or to pay for the cleaning
 - Library programs come first

Charlie stated that we should accommodate the Historical society
 Motion made to allow the Historical Society to use the library four times a season in conformity with the guidelines set forth by the town manager. Seconded and passed unanimously

Corporation Business:

- No movement on the Cottage Street property
 - Deadline with housing court is 10/31/23

Treasurer's Report

- Portfolio is holding steady with a few losses
- AI will handle the real estate affairs when timely
- End of the first quarter and we are on budget

Corporation Business:

Motion to adjourn at 5:07, seconded and passed unanimously

Next Trustees meeting will be arranged via email

