



SARANAC LAKE FREE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING
October 11, 2023
Cantwell Room

Trustees Present:

Mike Beccaria, President
Angela Bates
Beryl Szwed, Secretary

Wendy Austin
Mackenzie Davison
Tiffany Van Etten

Amy Richardson
David Staszak

Absent: Jesse Jakobe, Christina Lawrence, Cheryl Joyce, Aurora Wheeler-Pfaff

Also Present: Jacob Widrick, Library Director
Anya Bouchard, Coordinator of Outreach Libraries, CEF

Call to Order: by Mike Beccaria at 5:15 pm. A quorum was present.

Approval of the Minutes from the September 13, 2023 BOT Meeting: Amy Richardson moved to accept the minutes, seconded by David Staszak. Motion passed.

Introduction of Special Guest: Mike and Jake welcomes Anya Bouchard, our “designated link” to the Clinton Essex Franklin Library System of 30 member libraries. She is responsible for many services the SLFL provides to its users: rotating collections, grant writing, overdrive materials, kits, training for staff and trustees. She recommended that our website be updated so BOT Minutes can be viewed online, and access to resources can be improved.

Period of Public Expression: No Comments.

Director’s Report: Jake Widrick, Library Director, presented highlights of his written report:

- Both halves of the operating budget’s allocation from the SLCSO have been received.

- The NYS Construction Grant check was approved. Two withdrawals were made from the Janney account that will be reimbursed from the grant.
- APEX will return tomorrow to finish the roof work. The library will have to close down for several hours to connect with National Grid.
- Jake will work with Jasen Lawrence to work on a proposal for website design.
- Jake explained the research into companies who gave estimates on cleaning all the carpets in the building. Christina and Mike recommended Ashley's, but Scooter's is also competitive. Jake will contact the provider.
- Two staff computers were replaced outside the budget, and taken away by Adirondack Technologies.
- To weed out under-circulated books, there will be two tables of free books at the February book sale. CD's will be accepted for that sale. The summer book sale was slightly pared down.
- An Author/Speaker series is planned in conjunction with the ADK Center for Writing. We could cover travel and lodging expenses.

Angie Bates made a motion to approve all things to be purchased (technology, cleaning service) by Jake for the library. Tiffany Van Etten seconded. The motion passed by consensus. Mike thanked Jake for all these accomplishments.

Committee Reports:

Buildings & Grounds: Christina Lawrence was not present. The solar panels are all installed. National Grid will need to connect to them, requiring the library to close.

Finance: Christina reported no red flags. Jake increased the line for advertising. The amount for utilities needs adjustment.

Governance: Mike Beccaria received five expressions of interest for the upcoming five board vacancies. Angie made a motion (Mackenzie seconded) to accept four of the five as new members. Mike will contact each of the members and explain the expectations as Board trustees.

Mike also asked for recommendations for next year's slate of officers, with a term beginning in January at the Annual Meeting. The slate will be:

Mackenzie Davison for President
Beryl Szwed for Vice President
Angie Bates for Secretary
David Staszak for Treasurer

Service: No report.

Membership and Outreach: The fundraising letter from the President will then go to Jake. It will be sent out before Thanksgiving.

Old Business: None.

New Business: A motion was made by Amy (seconded by Tiffany) to allow Jake to reserve the right to override the tax gap (2%) in preparing the budget. The motion passed.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Angie, seconded by Jesse. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Executive Session: A motion to move into Executive Session was made by Amy, seconded by Mackenzie, (Passed) at 6:12 p.m. to discuss Jake's reviews and salary. He's been here two years. A motion to adjourn the Executive Session was made by Amy, seconded by Angela (passed). The session ended at 6:30 p.m.

Future Meeting Dates:

Beryl Szwed, Secretary
October 31, 2023