

Saranac Lake Free Library
Annual Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2018

President Brian O'Connor convened the meeting at 4:35, thanking all who were in attendance. He introduced the Board members attending.

The agenda was approved. Motion: Franny Preston; 2nd: Margot Gold. Vote: Unanimous

Minutes from the January 25, 2017 meeting were approved: Motion: Franny Preston; 2nd Margot Gold. Vote: Unanimous

Pete Benson, the Library Director, presented the annual report for 2017. He noted that areas of circulation depicted on the Report's first page were similar to those of the previous year. Total circulation was lower than 2016, though not drastically. Pete reported that when the economy does well, library visits and items in circulation decline; in a poor economy, visits and circulation increases. Patron attendance includes walk in; web based; and e checkouts (books, magazines, etc.). An extensive list of activities addressing literacy and other subjects held at the library was itemized by season. Pete said the Cantwell Room was booked 400 times in 2017. Saranac Lake's interlibrary loans (both as receiver and provider of materials) was surpassed only by Plattsburgh's library in total number, while our Library has more loans per capita than any other CEF library. This library is the only system library hosting a lunch program every two weeks with attendance from 45-80 community members. Brian complimented the report's photo with the library volunteers in period dress commemorating the 110th anniversary.

Pete also reviewed the 2017 financial activity and the 2018 budget. In response to a question, Pete indicated that the taxpayer contribution has increased as part of a plan developed to sustain the library's activities in the future. This community's library taxpayer support is between 50-60% of operations compared to 70-80% in NYS association libraries. The taxpayer support is less than one cent per one thousand dollars of assessment. The library offers services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Using standard library benchmarks, acquisitions to the library collection is about 10-12% of income. A new position for a professional librarian is included in the budget, contingent on receipt of grant funding and in recognition of the increasing technological complexity of library services.

Brian thanked Pete on his comprehensive Annual Report and presentation.

Brian thanked outgoing Board members, Bill Chapin and Dave Trudeau for their services.

The appointment of new library Trustees, Melissa Kline and Glenn Pareira III, was approved. Motion: Maureen Sayles; 2nd: Anne Paulson. Vote: Unanimous

Brian thanked all for attending, noting the attendance of former Board presidents, Joy Harvey, Diane Peterson and Anne Paulson.

The meeting adjourned at 4:54 pm. Motion: Franny Preston