

**Ashland Town Library
Minutes of Library Trustees Meeting
August 14, 2023**

Trustees Present: Alice Staples, David Ruell, Mardean Badger, Fran Newton
Others Present: Sara Weinberg, Director

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Alice Staples.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- The minutes of the 8/3/23 meeting will be approved at the next meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- The director shared several handouts from other libraries describing fine forgiveness or fine free programs. We briefly discussed the reasoning behind such programs, primarily the fact that the work time devoted to collecting fines far outweighs the amount of money that is collected. At a future meeting, we will discuss the fines policy, in addition to reviewing the overdue policy.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- The financial reports will be reviewed at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Building and Grounds**
 - Sara presented an estimate from Bob Inkel for painting the children's room. The estimate is \$1500 to \$1700 to prime and paint the bookshelves, walls and trim. Mr. Inkel would need a deposit of \$750. Sara said that the painting would be done one section at a time.
 - **A motion was made (Staples) and seconded (Badger) to approve the estimate of \$1500-\$1700 for painting the children's room, with a deposit of \$750. The money would be withdrawn from the library's building fund, to then be reimbursed from the Scribner Building Trust. The motion was approved unanimously 3-0.**
 - Sara proposed that a railing be added to the side walkway (from Pleasant Street to the front door) to provide safer access for those who find the front granite steps inaccessible. We will research companies who could do that work and get an estimate.
 - Craig Moore said that the parking lines will be added soon to the newly paved Pleasant Street. Parking will include the police spot and the handicapped spot. Other parking spots will not be added due to the narrowness of the street.
 - The base for the new bench (honoring Sue Longley) will be prepared sometime over the next week.
- **2024 Budget**
 - The proposed budget for 2024 was reviewed and approved for submission to the town office. Some notes regarding increases and decreases will be added to the individual categories.

- **Donor Agreement**
 - A new draft of the donor agreement was reviewed, with some suggested changes for further review.

NEXT MEETING

- **September 7 and September 21 – Library Trustees Meeting – 5:30 PM at the Ashland Town Library.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 PM.

Minutes submitted by Mardean Badger