

Approved
Rockport Public Library
Library Committee Meeting, January 19, 2021
Via Zoom
Meeting called to order at 2:30 by Liz Dailey, Acting Chair

Present:

Library Committee: Helen Shaw, Chair (arrived 3:00); William Chapman, Treasurer; Elizabeth Dailey, Secretary, and Lee Goss

Absent: Stephanie Kumble

Library Director: Ben Blackmon

Friends' Liaison: Ann Filley, absent

Select Board Liaison: Denise Munger

Guests:

Announcements/Introductions:

Consideration of Agenda: As is

Public Comment:

Reports:

1) Secretary: W. Chapman moved to accept the Secretary's report as corrected. L. Goss, second. Passed 3-0, L. Goss-yes, W. Chapman-yes, L. Dailey-yes. (Kumble and Shaw, absent)

2) Treasurer: W. Chapman reviewed the Treasurer's report, and mentioned that there was an increase in desk funds coinciding with the opening of the new library. He also mentioned that it is time to meet with Wendy Bush from Putnam. After a brief discussion, a tentative meeting has been set up for Wendy to join our Zoom meeting during our Feb. meeting. It was voted to accept the Treasurer's report. L. Dailey-yes, L. Goss-yes, W. Chapman-yes.

3) Director:

- With the opening of our new building, library donations are starting to increase.
- Business had been booming for new library cards, primarily from the 5-towns area.

- Statistics include only a 9-day spread in December which should be compared to Dec. 2019 as we were closed most of Dec. 2020 due to moving and Covid.
- Starting January 23, the Library will now be open on Sat., from 10-2.
- The Lower level is open as well. The elevator is open as is the stairwell. The stairwell is up to code but does not reflect a high standard of workmanship. Phi builders is dealing with this as it involves a subcontractor.
- Due to Covid, the library staff is continuing to limit patrons to 10 even with the opening of the lower floor.
- L. Meservey Poole is back from maternity leave. She continues to work from home.
- On-line programming is up and running in a more robust way.
- Annual report for the town is due Feb. 26. This could be viewed as an opportunity to share about our new library! H. Shaw will write a submission and W. Chapman will update our finances for the report.
- Curtains were installed today in the Children's room. They will be drawn at night due to some (bright light) concerns from neighbors.

4) Warrants(s): B. Blackmon gave an explanation of expenses on the December warrant. He is pleased with the camera system. It allows staff to see what's going on downstairs without anyone having to go to the lower level. B. Blackmon also mentioned that he is still spending some money on new building needs -odds and ends.

W. Chapman moved to pay the December warrant of \$10,864.66. L. Dailey second, passed 4-0. L. Dailey-yes, W. Chapman-yes, L. Goss-yes, H. Shaw-yes.

5) Friends: (report B. Blackmon)

Ben has been working with Friends. Sale books have been moved to the new library, with cleaning and organization proceeding. The shelves were also bolted to the wall for safety. There is a book shelf located at the bottom of the stairwell with sale books. Donations accepted. Future plans for Friends include: a grab bag sale by category, and planning on additional book sales when Covid is no longer considered such a threat.

6) Select Board:

Denise Munger volunteered to help make sure that the library parking signs go up in the designated areas. Thank you, Denise.

Generally, the Select Board is thrilled that the opening of our new library has been so successful.

Unfinished and Tabled Business

Previously, the Library committee approved next year's budget, and B. Blackmon mentioned that W. Post and M. Brackett will firm up the budget with the town, tomorrow (1/20/21).

New Business:

The Foundation would like to pay back \$25,000 by the end of the year (2021) and then come up with a schedule to fully repay the Library committee for furniture and fixtures. The Foundation members remain committed to their goal of long-term fundraising.

Adjournment: 3:38 pm

**Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Dailey, Secretary**

**Next meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2021 at 3:30.
Ben B. will send us the Zoom invite.**