

Approved
Rockport Public Library
Library Committee Meeting, September 19, 2019
at Town Office/RR

Meeting called to order at 10:35 by acting LC Chair, William Chapman

Present:

Library Committee: William Chapman, Treasurer; Elizabeth Dailey, Secretary; Helen Shaw, and Stephanie Kumble.

Absent: excused - Heaven Bartlett, Chair

Library Director: Ben Blackmon

Friends' Liaison: Ann Filley

Select Board Liaison: Doug Cole, absent

Guests: none

Announcements/Introductions: None

Consideration of Agenda: Ben Blackmon would like to include an additional warrant re: money to Library Foundation from the 5K.

Public Comment: None

Reports:

1) Secretary: Draft minutes for August 15, 2019 were reviewed and unanimously approved by committee.

2) Treasurer: The treasurer's report was reviewed and Bill Chapman noted that Friends donated \$8,000 to the library from the summer book sale. Ann Filley, Friends liaison, shared the reasoning behind the amount given.

3) Warrants(s): Ben Blackmon would like the committee to approve a \$1000 warrant to the Rockport Library Foundation from the funds earned at the summer 5K race.

Second half of July warrant - \$6,477.62

August warrant - \$5,282.88

All three warrants were signed by a quorum and will be disbursed to the town or the Library Foundation by committee treasurer.

4) Director:

- The 5K for next year will be held on Sunday, June 28, 2020. This will be in partnership with Abby Leonard, as music is offered in the harbor on Sundays. Ben Blackmon also noted that the 2020 Easter Egg hunt will be held in Harbor Park in conjunction with harbor activities.
- A board game event will be offered once a month starting in October.
- Currently, the Book Lovers Café activity is on hold due to low numbers.
- Activities:
 - Sept. 18th - a program entitled “The World in your Library: China’s One Child Policy” was offered in partnership with the Maine Humanities Council and Rockland Library at the opera house.
 - Sept. 25th - puffy painting will be happening at the library from 3:30-5:00.
 - October 8th - Laura Meservey, Keith Drago, and Sam Sharff will be going to active shooter training at the town office.
 - Ben Blackmon met with the three moving companies: Knowlton, Earl W. Noyes & Son, and Promovers and he is waiting for bids to come in. In preparation of the move, book weeding is taking place throughout the year.
 - Ben Blackmon and Ben Odgren will be attending the ML Association Conference Sept. 30 and Oct. 1st at Sunday River.
 - The meeting of the Association of Small and Rural Libraries held in Vermont, which Ben Blackmon participated in as a panel member, was very successful. Networking was helpful as well as hearing encouragement from those who have just moved into a new library.
 - Maine reciprocal borrowing agreement, currently a pilot program, offers a borrowing agreement between 70 libraries in Maine. And yes, Rockport is one of the participating libraries! An individual will need to have a library card, and be in good standing which will allow borrowing books in person from any of the participating libraries. Books may be returned to the home library. It was asked if this will impact non-residential fees. The pilot program will make this potential impact clearer, and perhaps Rockport might take a small hit. This program begins September 16th.

Stephanie Kumble asked if it would be possible to compare program months between different years, to analyze the impact of attendance in more detail. Attendance and circulation numbers remain a concern for her.

Ben Blackmon noted that circulation statistics are down statewide, and anticipates that attendance numbers will grow with the move to the new library.

5) Select Board: None

6) Friends:

- Ann Filley reported that alternatives will be sought for what has been the mega summer book sale. Several smaller book sales are being considered. Ann also mentioned that Friends is hoping to appeal to a broader range of ages. The move to the new library will be a time to launch this effort.
- In a conversation with Niki Janczura, Wealth Management, for The First, N.A., Ann Filley reported that there was an inquiry about managing the Endowment Fund for the library. Ann stressed that she was just passing on the inquiry. After a brief discussion, it was clarified that at this time the Rockport Library Committee would not consider any change to the current financial advisor until we have moved into the new library.
- Friends plan on allocating \$2,000 dollars per year for a butterfly garden at the new library.

Unfinished Business:

Motion by Chapman to table the Select Board/Library Committee agreement, indefinitely. Shaw seconded; passed 4-0.

New Business:

The Library Committee would like to thank the book sale volunteers, and Ann Filley proposed that this could be accomplished by buying a brick in their honor. A motion was made by Shaw for the Library Committee to buy a brick thanking the volunteers for their work on the book sale. Kumble seconded; discussion included waiting until October when matching funds will be available. Passed 4-0.

Stephanie Kumble thought it was also important to thank the Friends leadership/group in general. Shaw made a motion for the Library Committee to buy a brick thanking Friends for their continued support of the Library. Kumble seconded, passed 4-0.

Non-resident fees-After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Chapman to raise non-resident fees to \$20 per year, beginning January 1, 2020. Shaw seconded; passed 3-1.

Annual appeal letter – Helen Shaw reported that she is working on a draft merging a Foundation and Library Committee appeal letter. In short, the Library annual appeal letter with endorse Foundation fundraising this year.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 12:05 pm
Motion Kumble/Second Chapman, passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Dailey, Secretary

October agenda items include:
Discussion of town edits for Library by-laws
Further discussion of appeal letter
Ben will ready the warrants for the bricks!