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Library Board of Trustees
Edgartown Public Library
26 West Tisbury Road, Edgartown, MA
MINUTES

Meeting of Thursday, Dec. 9, 2021

Meeting attendance by remote participation only due to Covid-19.

Meeting called to order by Denise Searle: 3:07 PM

Trustees in attendance: David Faber, Nis Kildegaard, Olga Church, Julie Lively, Denise Searle

Guests: Lisa Sherman, Library Director; David Ignacio, president of the Friends

Absences: Justine DeOliviera

Review of Minutes:

MOTION: To accept the minutes of the Nov. 18, 2021 meeting.

MOTION: David Faber, **SECOND:** Julie Lively

ACTION: Unanimous

Friends Report: David Ignacio shared the minutes from the organization's December meeting. His report was accepted with thanks from the trustees.

The Friends' annual appeal has thus far brought in more than \$6,000. David said preparations are in place for the Friends open-house event from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 11. He noted that the Herb Foster event has been put off until June (Mr. Foster's half-birthday), and a brief discussion ensued about plans for a ceremony to unveil the recently-completed plaque and dedicate the board room upstairs in Mr. Foster's memory. The trustees agreed that Mr. Foster's birthday -- Monday, Jan. 31 -- would be a good date for this.

Director's Report: Lisa Sherman, Library Director

- Lisa reviewed the status of the budget five months into this fiscal year. She noted that this is the first year she can remember when the library had already expended half its books & materials budget so early, and she attributed this to the library's efforts to meet the surging demand for digital content. "There are some books in Libby that have 500 holds on them; it's hard to keep up," she said.

Lisa shared the foot traffic report, which showed visits increasing from 3,279 in October to 3,573 in November. Much of this is attributable, she said, to the busy Children's Room.

- Lisa introduced a discussion of the library’s proposed FY 2023 budget by saying that it’s due in the office of our town administrator, James Hagerty, on Dec. 18. This coming year’s proposed budget reflects an increase over the current year of approximately 4 percent – above the level suggested by Mr. Hagerty. But the increase is attributable entirely to three budget lines over which the library has no control: wages and salaries (set by the town and up 3.9 percent), custodial services (up 15.9 percent under a fixed three-year contract recently negotiated by the town) and “books & materials,” the amount mandated by the state to maintain the library’s accreditation (up by 5.1 percent). After going over Lisa’s numbers, the board expressed its approval for her to move forward with the budget as proposed.

Building Updates:

- Lisa said that a long-awaited project outside the library, the removal of the old utility pole smack in the middle of the entrance sidewalk on the West Tisbury Road, is finally underway.
- Outfitting the elevator with a system that allows it to operate during a power outage has been pushed back to late January or early February, Lisa said. Meanwhile the library has received a \$380,000 quote on the cost of installing a power generator that would enable the library to serve as a warming center during emergencies; Lisa said she was scheduled to discuss this project soon with the Edgartown capital improvement committee. If the generator project is favored by the town, the elevator system clearly wouldn’t be needed, she said. She will watch as the situation evolves and report to the trustees in January.
- Lisa is waiting to hear from Mike Lynch with his assessment of the roof leaks. Scott Ellis has visited the library and fixed the leak in the basement storage room. Efforts to repair the back door suffered a setback when the repairman came with the wrong part. Work is still in progress on the water station in the entryway.

Library Landscaping Committee Report:

- The committee is awaiting one more proposal from a prospective landscaper, and hopes to make a decision soon so this project can move forward early next year, Lisa said.

Fundraising/Gifts Received:

- **MOTION:** To accept \$1,000 from the Friends
MOTION: Olga Church, **SECOND:** Denise Searle -- **ACTION:** Unanimous
MOTION: To accept the state’s funding grant of \$4,127.87
MOTION: Nis Kildegaard, **SECOND:** David Faber – **ACTION:** Unanimous
MOTION: To accept the donation of a Mason & Hamlin Model A baby grand piano, a gift to the library in August of 2020 from David Crohan
MOTION: Denise Searle, **SECOND:** Julie Lively – **ACTION:** Unanimous

There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

Next meeting date: Thursday, Jan. 13, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
Nis Kildegaard, secretary