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

Meeting of Thursday, Nov. 18, 2021

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

Meeting called to order by Justine DeOliviera: 3:35 PM

Trustees in attendance: David Faber, Nis Kildegaard, Olga Church, Julie Lively, Justine DeOliviera

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

Absences: Denise Searle

Review of Minutes:

MOTION: To accept the minutes of the Oct. 14, 2021 meeting.

MOTION: Olga Church, **SECOND:** David Faber

ACTION: Unanimous

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

The Friends' annual appeal letter has gone out, and more than \$2,600 in financial support has already come in. Lisa said the plans for the Herbert Foster event, tentatively set for January, are in flux; she plans to ask the town to seek an opinion from counsel on what authority the Friends and/or the Library might have to set Covid safety guidelines at this sort of public event. One possibility being considered, she said, is to move the Foster celebration to a spring date when outdoor weather might be more amenable.

Looking ahead to the Friends open-house event during Christmas in Edgartown week, it was reported that Michael Donaroma has stepped up again this year with the generous offer of 75 poinsettia plants for sale during that celebration. Virginia Munro plans to screen The Nutcracker for that event; noted Lisa, "This will be the first time we've had the public in the Program Room in over two years." In another event that will be supported by the Friends, plans are being made for a book signing by Edgartown's poet laureate, Steve Ewing.

Director's Report: Lisa Sherman, Library Director

- Lisa reviewed the status of the budget four months into this fiscal year. She recounted an incident in which the library's cleaning staff was trapped in the elevator when a power outage struck Edgartown early on a recent morning. It

turns out that without the addition of new power-backup equipment for the elevator, it's not possible to extract people trapped between floors without damaging the elevator severely. "The only reason they were able to get out," she said, "is that the power came back on about an hour later." She is working with the elevator company to have a backup emergency system (it's called a controller modification device) installed for the elevator, and will pay for it (about \$7,000) from the EPL maintenance budget. If that line goes over budget this year, she said she will request funds to make up the difference from the financial advisory committee. (Lisa noted that she is in conversation with other town officials about the prospect of installing a power generator for the library, but that is still a year or two off.)

- Lisa has found a new contractor (who also takes care of the Edgartown School) to repair the rear Library entrance door. It won't be cheap, but she said this contractor has been responsive. She said the installation of the water filling station in the entryway is now underway.
- Lisa shared a proposed holiday schedule for the library, as follows: Closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 25 and 26 (open again on Saturday, Nov. 27); closing at 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 24; closed Saturday, Dec. 25 and closed Saturday, Jan. 1.

MOTION: to accept the proposed holiday schedule:

Moved: Olga Church

Seconded: Nis Kildegaard

Voted: Unanimous

- Lisa said Mike Lynch has done a walk-around to look at the Library's leaky roof issues, and has been given all the materials developed by the consultants earlier this fall. She hopes he'll be back soon for a more detailed examination of the roof issues.
- Lisa said in-person traffic into the library continues to be light this fall – October traffic was at a level of 3,279 people, compared to more than 8,000 in the last October before the pandemic. This is an Island-wide situation, and in Edgartown it is in large part because the library isn't yet generating traffic with its popular public in-person programs. She promised to develop a report on the popularity of the library's online public programs (from poetry writing to yoga, from concerts to author talks) in order to put these numbers in better perspective. And she said that activity in the Children's Room is perking up dramatically this fall. Weekly story times are being offered again, and every day after school the library is seeing about 30 children in the room. "That room is the pulse of this place right now," Lisa said.

Other Building Operation & Maintenance Updates:

Current building issues in progress, and their status:

- Basement IT/Utility Pole: No progress to report.
- Lisa expressed the hope that either Scott Ellis or the plumber working on the upstairs water station will soon address the water puddling downstairs in the HVAC room.

Library Landscaping Committee Report:

- The landscaping committee has had one interview with a prospective landscaper, and its members were very heartened by that conversation. A second interview with another candidate is next, and then the committee will consider how to go forward.

Fundraising/Gifts Received:

- **MOTION:** To accept \$1,000 from the Friends
MOTION: David Faber, **SECOND:** Julie Lively
ACTION: Unanimous

There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

Next meeting date: Thursday, Dec. 9, **in person** @ 3pm in the library Program Room.

*Respectfully submitted,
Nis Kildegaard, secretary*