



26 West Tisbury Rd • Edgartown, MA 02539 • edgartownlibrary.org

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

Meeting of Thursday, Feb. 10, 2022

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

Meeting called to order by Julie Lively: 3:01 PM

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

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

Review of Minutes:

MOTION: To accept the minutes of the Jan. 13, 2022 meeting.

MOTION: Denise Searle, **SECOND:** Julie Lively

ACTION: Unanimous

Friends Report: David Ignacio summarized the organization's meeting of Feb. 3. The Friends' annual fund drive has raised nearly \$13,000, he said. The group has heard that it will be receiving a grant from the Martha's Vineyard Cultural Council, and is waiting to hear from Martha's Vineyard Savings Bank. (Lisa pointed out that the MVCC and MVSBB grants traditionally cover the cost of the Sounds Like Summer concert series.)

David said the Friends have been discussing plans for some sort of occasional program – they're currently calling it the Friends Salon – to increase engagement with the Friends and generate interest in the library. They have decided to start with a drop-in coffee hour from 10 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 19 in the area under the stairs on the library's main floor.

Director's Report: Lisa Sherman, Library Director

- Lisa reviewed the status of the budget seven months into this fiscal year. At the beginning of February, the library should have a bit more than 40% left in most line items to cover the remainder of the year, she said – and most budget lines are right on track. The library is a bit over on maintenance, but the good news is that the battery backup system for the elevator has been installed, and the bill was about \$2,000 less than the contractor had quoted. She said the library's spending on new materials has been slightly higher than normal at this point in the fiscal year, but she noted that the library traditionally dips into some of its resources like the Thayer Fund to be sure the library hits its mark and satisfies the requirements of the Mass. Board of Library Commissioners.

- Lisa shared a report on foot traffic into the library in January – it was about half the numbers from before the pandemic, but double what the library saw during the depths of the pandemic in January of 2021. She looked more closely at traffic during the first two weeks of January, comparing traffic between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. with numbers after school, after 2 p.m. On most days, she said, the library is seeing 10 people per hour during that early span and 22 per hour in the afternoon. When the afternoon count is in the 90s, she said, “It’s not 90 kids – it’s the same 30 kids running in and out a bunch of times, which can feel like 90 kids.”
- Lisa reported that the library will be holding its first live concert program since March of 2020 in the program room at 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 12, with Jeremy Berlin performing on the library’s new piano. So far about 20 people have signed up for this; capacity has been limited to 40. Lisa said she is trying to get the water bottle station fully installed in the entryway before this event, but was unsure if this will be completed in time.
- Lisa said her meeting with the Financial Advisory Committee on Jan. 27 was brief, and that the committee swiftly approved the library’s budget – including a late change to the salary line to pay four employees for their lunch hours. Lisa had discovered, in the run-up to that meeting, that other Edgartown departments are paying staff for their half-hour daily lunch breaks, and the library needed to make this adjustment so that our staff is treated fairly and consistently. This change affects four 35-hour per week employees. Each of them now will be paid for an added 5 hours in every two-week pay period, which increased the library’s salary budget by \$18,627 for next year. And that, she explained, increases the minimum that the library must spend on books and materials by about \$3,500. The only other news from the Finance Advisory Committee, Lisa said, is that they deferred the generator project, removing it from this year’s annual meeting warrant.
- Lisa said that back in October a patron noticed that the library’s historic Regulator wall clock wasn’t working, and recommended Joan Perrine as a person skilled in clock repair. Joan subsequently picked up the clock, took it home and fixed it. Joan also provided a written report on history of the clock, which has been keeping time for the library since the Carnegie building opened in 1904. Now she is working to get the marine clock upstairs (donated by Chris Gazaille several years ago) back up and running.

Library Landscaping Committee Report:

- The committee has chosen Dharshini Joseph as designer for the landscaping project. The designer suggests hiring surveyors to prepare a site plan, and a Falmouth firm has quoted a cost of about \$4,600 for the job, with a timeline of eight or nine weeks. Some discussion among the trustees ensued on the question of how necessary a survey is for this landscaping work. Lisa said she’ll explore this question with the designer. The timeline as it’s becoming clear suggests that work on the actual landscaping might not begin until the fall of 2022: the designer will need a few weeks to prepare her proposal, and then it will need to go through a formal bidding process. On the landscaping topic, Nis reported that he is exploring whether the library might be able to install an outdoor lighting system for programs such as the Sounds Like Summer series. He reached out to M.J. Munafo of the Vineyard Playhouse, who recommended a

firm in Canton, High Output, which has a representative here on the Island. That technician, Ernie Iannicone, has been in touch and will stop by for a site visit and first conversation in the weeks ahead.

Fundraising/Gifts Received:

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

New Business:

Lisa reported that Maggie Morrison has expressed her intent to take out papers to run for the seat on the library Board of Trustees that becomes open this spring.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

Next meeting date: Thursday, March 10, 2022.

*Respectfully submitted,
Nis Kildegaard, secretary*