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

Meeting of Thursday, March 10, 2022

Meeting attendance by remote participation only.

Meeting called to order by Denise Searle: 3:03 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 Feb. 10, 2022 meeting.

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

ACTION: Unanimous

Friends Report: David Ignacio reported that the group's annual fund drive is winding down, and that as of the Friends' March 3 meeting, the drive had received some \$12,763 in support from 97 individual donors – a 20 percent response rate to the appeal mailing. The group awaits final details on grants from the Martha's Vineyard Cultural Council and from Martha's Vineyard Savings Bank.

David said the Friends held their first "Salon" open house program on Feb. 19 – an initiative to increase engagement with the Friends and generate interest in the library. They plan to repeat the program with a drop-in coffee hour from 10 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 19 at the library.

Director's Report: Lisa Sherman, Library Director

- Lisa reviewed the status of the budget, which is on track eight months into this fiscal year.
- Lisa shared a report on foot traffic into the library in February – it continues to run at a level that's about half the pre-pandemic numbers, but steadily growing back as live programs resume. Virginia has filled March with in-person programs, she said, and the preschool book hour is attracting close to two dozen kids. "So the library is coming back to life," she said.
- A highlight of February was the Jeremy Berlin/Shelagh Hackett concert that drew about 40 people and christened the library's new piano.
- Lisa said the mask mandate was lifted at the library almost immediately after Edgartown and the Island health officers decided to lift it. The Edgartown Library

went to a “masks optional” policy, which Lisa said has been well received by staff and the public.

- Lisa said that this month’s mix of in-person and virtual programs is just about 50-50. Emily Gray Becker has been hired as the library’s new program coordinator, beginning on March 21. This gives her an overlap of almost two weeks with the retiring program coordinator, Virginia Munro.
- Lisa noted that the legislation allowing online meetings of town boards will expire on May 15. The trustees said they’d like to meet in person next month.
- Lisa said that challenges to materials in libraries and schools are sharply rising across the country, and that in anticipation of any issues arising in Edgartown, she plans to review and strengthen the Edgartown Library’s policy for review by the trustees next month.
- Lisa asked the board whether, given the newly relaxed policies on public gatherings, she should look at scheduling the dedication of the board room in memory of Herbert Foster. The trustees asked her to look for a date, and she agreed to look at the calendar.
- Building updates: The water bottle filling station is almost completely installed. The leak in the basement has returned. The interior door lock problem has not been resolved, but the library has a work-around in place.

Library Landscaping Committee Report:

- Lisa and the board again discussed the question of whether surveyors should be hired to prepare a site plan. After hearing Lisa’s report on her conversations with the landscape designer, the board agreed that the library should have the survey work done.
- **MOTION:** To hire Holmes & McGrath to perform the library property survey, at a cost not to exceed \$6,900, to be expended from the HB Fund.

MOTION: Nis Kildegaard, **SECOND:** Olga Church

ACTION: Unanimous

Fundraising/Gifts Received:

- **MOTION:** To accept \$1,000 from the Friends
MOTION: Julie Lively, **SECOND:** Olga Church
ACTION: Unanimous
- **MOTION:** To accept a gift of \$1,000 from Peter and Chelsea Vessenes
MOTION: Julie Lively, **SECOND:** Olga Church
ACTION: Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Next meeting date: Thursday, April 14, 2022 – in person at the library

*Respectfully submitted,
Nis Kildegaard, secretary*