

Library Board of Trustees

Edgartown Public Library

26 West Tisbury Road, Edgartown, MA

**MINUTES**

**Meeting of Thursday, March 9, 2023**

Held in the Foster Room

**David Faber** called the meeting to order at3:33 p.m.

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

**Guests:** Lisa Sherman, Library Director; Elyce Retmier, Children’s Librarian; Stephanie Tilton

**Review of Minutes:**

**MOTION:** To accept the minutes of the February 2023 meeting.

**MOTION:** Denise Searle, **SECOND:** Olga Church

**ACTION:** Unanimous

**Friends Report:**  The Trustees received a summary of the Friends’ recent meeting. The Friends have been assured that they may continue meeting remotely, and are setting up their own Zoom account, which obviates the need for library staff to administer them. After discussion, the Friends have decided that the “Treasures in the Trunk” event they’ve been considering involves rather too much work for a too-modest return.

**Director’s Report and Children’s Room Report:** Lisa Sherman, Library Director, and Elyce Retmier, Children’s Librarian.

* Lisa introduced a discussion about the dynamics of the Children’s Room by reporting to the trustees that the Library staff held a group meeting earlier in the week, at which they talked about ways to be more consistent in curating the Library environment, with particular focus on the children who flood in each weekday afternoon. Rotating staff into the Children’s Room so they can grow more familiar with the dynamics there is one thing they’ll be doing, she said. She and the staff also discussed what she called “red rules,” which are hard behavioral lines not to be crossed – running, jumping, throwing things, excessive volume – and “blue rules,” which allow for more flexibility and modification.   
    
  Elyce talked about the importance of positive reinforcement for good library behavior by the 30-40 children who come from the school each afternoon. She said she will tell a rambunctious child, after repeated warnings, that they need to leave and “let’s try again tomorrow.” Elyce said she seizes every opportunity to explain to parents how the library is different from the school and the Boys’ and Girls’ Club – there’s no attendance taken, and the library holds no authority to stop any patron, child or adult, from wandering in and out of the building.  
    
  It was clear from Elyce’s conversation with the trustees that she sees the volume of children coming in every afternoon as an opportunity, not a problem. She knows most children by name, and has built such strong relationships that even kids who have moved on to the high school continue to visit, and she has more children wanting to volunteer at the library than she can schedule. The trustees thanked Elyce for all her wonderful work.
* Lisa reported that the library foot traffic count in February was 4,698, an increase of 41 percent over last year.
* Lisa reported that the library is mostly on-track with its operating budget this year, with a surplus in the salary line due to open positions and hiring challenges, but with unexpectedly high maintenance costs. Lisa said that it will be time in May to look at whether the library might need to go before the financial advisory committee to either propose a transfer of funds within the library’s budget, or if needed request funds to cover building repairs.
* Lisa said that on the staffing front, the library’s biggest challenge now is filling part-time positions. (This is why the salary line in the library budget has so much remaining: part time positions are becoming more and more difficult to fill.) She said that this is a problem not just for the library but for several municipal departments in Edgartown, and noted that HR has formed a working group to discuss this issue – which she has volunteered to participate in.
* Lisa said that conversations with the Young family with regard to a memorial gift are ongoing, and she will let the trustees know when those discussions have advanced to the point where a decision by the board is needed.
* Landscaping report: Lisa said it’s time for a meeting with the landscape architect, and she will be reaching out to committee members to find a convenient time.

**Fundraising/Gifts Received:**

**MOTION:** To accept gifts of $1,500 in support of library programming and $600.00 for the Children’s Room from the Friends.

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

**ACTION:** Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

**Next meeting date**: Thursday, April 13, 2023 – in person at the library, beginning at 3:30 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Nis Kildegaard, secretary*