



***Alice M. Ward Memorial Library Board of Trustees  
Minutes  
February 7, 2024***

**I. Open Meeting:**

The 02/07/2024 Alice M. Ward Memorial Library (AWML) Trustees meeting was opened at 4:05 pm by Nancy Petro

**II. Attendees:**

Nancy Petro, Sharon Belleville, Gana Carr, Shellie Bresnahan, Cindy Smythe Ron King. Not present, Kathy Smith.

**III. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:**

A motion was made by Gana and seconded by Shellie to approve 01/03/2024 AWML Trustee meeting minutes. Minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

**IV. Additions/Deletions to Agenda:**

None

**V. General Public Comments:**

None

**VI. Building Maintenance/Concerns:**

JC Carpentry and Tardiff Plumbing & Heating have looked at the bathroom and are preparing an estimate for renovation to make the bathroom ADA compliant.

A new, smaller and more energy efficient water heater installed. (Recently the electric bills increased a great deal. The water heater was quite old and the suspicion was that it was the culprit.)

Architect proposals have been reviewed (for the purpose of completing a feasibility study on the carriage house) and interview time scheduled for selection.

**VII. Budget Review:**

The proposed budget and library report have been submitted to the town clerk for inclusion in the town report.

The January 2024 finance report was reviewed and discussed. A motion was made by Sharon and seconded by Nancy to approve the current finance report. Passed unanimously.

Applications were submitted for the Paul Post Fund and CLIF Literary Enrichment grants which will be used for programming if awarded.

### **VIII. Policy/Bylaw Review:**

No policy updates/reviews this month.

### **IX. Library Activity:**

VINS is scheduled to come on 7/17 for a raptor presentation. Cindy coordinated with the Island Pond library so that they will present there first and then Canaan. Scheduling both libraries on the same day saves the cost of travel for the program.

Ron has been busy going through the collections, weeding and reshelving. Several of the smaller shelves are being replaced larger shelves obtained from the former Joos Library in W. Stewartstown. The changing and addition of shelves has provided more space for books.

The Jon Gailmor musical presentation at the American Legion (presented in collaboration with CNC and the Legion, paid for by grants from VT AARP and the Vermont Arts Council) was well attended and enjoyed.

Students from the first, third and fourth grades visited the library in January.

Planning is in progress for this year's summer reading program. This year will be a "Smokey the Bear Reading Challenge."

A Knit felted bag class presented by SASH/Rural Edge is underway at the library. It is a series of 4 classes and 10 people were in attendance at the first session.

Go Ask Alice Book Club is enjoying consistent attendance this winter. In January the book "The Breakaway" by Jennifer Weiner was read and received good reviews from all. The February book is "American Dirt" by Jeanine Cummins.

The library will have Eclipse viewing glasses available at the library available for pickup in advance of the full solar eclipse on 4/8/24. The library also has a selection of books on the subject available.

See Librarian's report, available in the library, for additional information.

### **X. Ongoing/Future Goals:**

### **XI. Other Business:**

The trustees discussed a proposal that was made to the selectboard by Bob Lee regarding the garden on his property (the former Bea Holmes garden) that is located adjacent to the library property. Mr. Lee informed the selectboard that he would like to donate the garden to the library. The trustees discussed what maintaining the garden would entail- manpower, materials, cost, etc. This proposal was not brought to the library and the trustees did not have time to consider or discuss the subject. The cost of the endeavor was not included in the library budget. The town has included an article in the town report for vote- should it be

passed the library will have to request an amendment to the budget for care of the garden. The library does not have the manpower or knowledge for proper care of this garden and would have to hire a caretaker should this proposal come to pass.

The library will be closed on 2/19/24 for Presidents Day and on 4/8/24 for the Eclipse.

There will be no Trustee meeting in March 2024.

## **XII. Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

**Next Meeting:** The next regular meeting of the Alice M. Ward Memorial Library Trustees will occur at 4:00 pm on 4/3/24.