



***Alice M. Ward Memorial Library Board of Trustees  
Minutes  
April 3, 2024***

**I. Open Meeting:**

The 04/03/2024 Alice M. Ward Memorial Library (AWML) Trustees meeting was opened at 4:05 pm by Nancy Petro.

**II. Attendees:**

Nancy Petro, Kathy Smith, Sharon Belleville, Gana Carr, Shellie Bresnahan, & Cindy Smythe

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

A motion was made by Shellie and seconded by Gana to approve 02/07/2024 AWML Trustee meeting minutes. The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

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

None

**V. General Public Comments:**

None

**VI. Building Maintenance/Concerns:**

No change to electric bill (increased a large amount in the fall) despite turning off the dehumidifier and replacing the old hot water heater. Electric company will be called again to request they check the meter and anything else they may be able to suggest.

Discussed the need for door/floor mats. A gentleman visited the library Monday from King's Floor Mats. The sample of their product did not allow the door to open smoothly. Cindy will look at other options for outdoor mats and indoor mats.

**VII. Budget Review:**

Water/sewer bill received. Rates have increased above budgeted rate.

Budgeted amount for DVD's will be exceeded as there is a series that has gotten popular, and several patrons have requested additional episodes be available.

Two grants were awarded to the library that will be used for books and materials for the summer reading program. They were the Paul Post Fund Grant and the CLIF Literacy Enrichment Grant.

Budget detail reports were reviewed for February and March. No concerns noted.

A motion was made by Kathy and seconded by Nancy to approve the budget. Approved unanimously.

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

A policy regarding the management of grants was held. Cindy will have the written policy ready for review at the May trustee meeting.

## **IX. Library Activity:**

The library has several informational posters about the eclipse and a 3-D display showing the alignment of the sun, moon and earth for the total eclipse to occur. Books about the upcoming eclipse have been popular. Also, many patrons have picked up the free eclipse glasses the library has made available. Glasses were also shared with Canaan Schools, CCNH, and the VT Dept. of Libraries to distribute to other libraries for their patrons.

The "Tiny Art Show" is being held again this year. Art kits can be picked up at the library and completed masterpieces returned by May 1<sup>st</sup> to be displayed in the library.

The "Town Hollers" were unable to make it to Canaan to perform at the American Legion on March 11. Mario Marquis kindly stepped in so that the luncheon and music program could go on. The "Town Hollers" have rescheduled for April 29<sup>th</sup> for a lunch followed by music program.

The library trustees and director have had a couple of meetings with architect Ryan Edwards who is working on plans for the possible restoration and renovation of the carriage house. Ryan's work is being paid for by grant funds and his plans will be used as we apply for additional grants that, if awarded to us, will be used to restore the carriage house and turn it into more useable library space.

Cindy went to the school and read "The Adventures of Peter Rabbit" to kindergarten class. After the story the class was visited by 2 bunnies that they were able to pet.

Canaan students made their monthly visit to the library where they enjoyed a display of the eclipse as well as several posters about the eclipse. Cindy read a book about solar eclipses to them during the visit.

See the Librarian's report for additional information.

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

Continue seeking funding sources and opportunities for the purpose of maintaining and improving the library building as well as supporting programs and collections.

## **XI. Other Business:**

Carter Finegan was in town to share information about MERP fund availability and qualified uses for which the monies may be applied for. After a meeting at the town office, she visited the library and talked to the Library Director and trustees about possible projects for energy savings.

## **XII. Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Kath and seconded by Shellie to adjourn the 04/03/24 AWML Trustees meeting. Approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:03 pm.