



Town of Dudley

Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library Board of Trustees

March 7, 2023, at 6:15 p.m.

Dudley Municipal Complex

71 West Main Street, Dudley, MA

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance:

The meeting was called to order by Richard Clark at 6:15 p.m.

In attendance were Richard Clark, Chairman, Edward Bazinet, Secretary, Joyce Nierodzinski, Adriana Buda and Drusilla Carter, Library Director.

Motion to approve Meeting Minutes for October 25, 2022, and November 22, 2022, made by Mr. Bazinet, seconded by Ms. Nierodzinski. Motion passed 4-0.

Director's Report:

Ms. Carter stated there were many programs coming up. The Library's calendar can be checked by the public periodically to see what programs there and if any new ones have been added. Quite a few of these programs require registration.

New Program: New quilters group held on Wed's 1:30-3:30 (Sandra is the lead person)

Ms. Carter told the Board they are in good shape for the budget.

A number of items relating to facilities still need to be addressed. The flagpole and the refurbishing of the doors being two.

The replacement of worn carpeting remains a concern and we may need to take a piecemeal approach.

The Director presented a draft of a Collection Development Policy. The Board tabled this item for further discussion before a full Board.

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

The Chair noted that he had attended the Friends Meeting on February 13, 2023, and expressed his gratitude to the Friends on behalf of the Board for all that the Friends do to support the Library. The Friends will hold a Book Sale starting on Thursday, April 20th and there will be bargains galore. Possible sale items include tote bags, mugs and of course many gently used books and other media.

The Chair noted that at the last BOS Meeting, February 27, 2023, budgetary concerns were discussed and that we should all beware that the Town is facing a serious financial challenge in 2023-2024. The Board may need to advocate on behalf of the library in the coming months.

Town Manager Requests:

The Town Manager has requested all Department Heads to submit budgets reflecting a 10% reduction.

There is the possibility that the library will be requested to ask for a waiver with regards to town funding and state aid. The Director noted that we have requested waivers in the past and she is familiar with the process.

Endowment Funds:

The question of the Library Endowment Funds was raised at the last BOS Meeting and the BOS and the Town Manager will have to be re-informed that Endowment Funds are restricted and not available to cover operating expenses. Regrettably, this issue has come up in the past and will likely be revisited in the future.

Theme of the Month:

Ms. Buda raised several questions pertaining to Themes in the Children's Room. A Theme of the Month was proposed. The Director urged Ms. Buda to speak with the Children's Librarian in order to understand the process as it exists today. Changes and options will be considered, and this discussion will be continued.

Outreach Opportunities:

Attempts have been made to engage with Nichols College. We are waiting for a response.

Crawford Corner Status:

The Crawford Corner project continues to move forward albeit slowly. The hope is to have a "bid package" ready for publication soon. Review by Town Counsel is underway.

Director's Evaluation Process:

The hope is to complete this process in May. More information and a revised format will be discussed at our next meeting.

Board Member Comments and/or Observations:

Joyce mentioned the Day of Caring through the United Way will happen on June 23, 2023 and applications are being accepted until 3/31/2023 asking Drusilla to apply on behalf of the PLCML, Joyce requested an update of the Town of Dudley dementia friendly group, Joyce requested the process on

changing programs offered that we receive low attendance to, specifically the Bad Movies of the Month. Drusilla stated that it is booked through June and will consider a different program after that.

Richard will get more information on how other libraries offer coffee and baked goods to the patrons, how the cost is covered, how it is set up, who is responsible for setup/ clean up.

Next Meeting date:

Tuesday, April 11, 2023, @ 6:15

Adjournment:

Motion by Mr. Bazinet to adjourn at 7:32 PM, Seconded by Ms. Nierodzinski, Passed Unanimously.