

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Minutes for the meeting of April 5, 2022 held via Zoom.

Library Board President Kathy McGroarty called the regular meeting of Tuesday, April 5, 2022 to order at 7:03 p.m. Meeting is in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Trustees present: Patricia McCarty, Ed Carpenito, Vince Grayson, Eileen Jankunis, Leah Kacicz, Kathy McGroarty, Janet Ark, Mary Grant and Carolyn Krickus.

Trustees absent: None.

Staff present: Jackie Zuzzi, Library Director

Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of March 1, 2022 was made Janet Ark and seconded by Mary Grant. Eileen Jankunis abstained. Motion passed.

Correspondence: None.

Open to the Public.

Meeting was open to the public. No public present. Meeting was closed to the public.

Treasurer's Report

Mary Grant presented the treasurer's report for March 2022 and the budget balance is \$823,595.48. Motion was made to accept the treasurer's report by Janet Ark and seconded by Mary Grant. Motion passed.

Bill Approval

Bills to be paid were presented. Mary Grant amended her initial motion to approve the monthly bills to include the additional bills Jackie put forth totaling \$2,487.43. Motion was seconded by Eileen Jankunis. Motion passed unanimously with "aye" votes from the following: Ed Carpenito, Vince Grayson, Pat McCarty, Janet Ark, Leah Kacicz, Eileen Jankunis, Mary Grant, Kathy McGroarty and Carolyn Krickus.

Director's Report

Elizabethtown Gas changed the gas meter, which is done every six years and JCPL changed the electrical meter, which is done more frequently. Hobbie Heat was in to reconnect the HVAC unit in the Meeting Room to the ventilation duct. George J. Keller and Sons started and completed the roof repair on the north side of the building. Jackie is currently redesigning the circulation area of the library.

National Library Week is April 3 – 9. This year's theme is "Connect with Your Library". Jackie mentioned that a great way to "connect with your library" is through community outreach. Our Adult Services

Librarian, Dylan Vetter will be doing several Librarian Pop-Ups at The Coffee Potter during the week. She will have library card applications, book lists, event calendars, and ARC's (advance reading copies of newly published books). The goal is to connect with current and potential patrons in town, and promote what we offer and get some feedback.

April is also National Poetry Month. To celebrate poetry, we will be holding two programs: a daytime poetry reading with local poet BJ Ward and an Open Mic Poetry Night for patrons to read their own works and listen to those of their neighbors. There are fifteen slots available for people to read their works. They can sign up online using a Google Form, which allows Dylan to organize the performers and also see a preview of their work. The Friends of the Library are sponsoring the daytime poetry reading and the refreshments for the Open Mic Poetry night, which will be provided by The Coffee Potter.

We also just booked a speaker from Morris County, who lived in the Ukraine in the 1990's. She will be speaking on her experience amidst the culture and people, which is a worthwhile backdrop to current events.

In looking towards the Summer Reading Program, the library would like to hold an after-hours Trivia Night at the library, run by Trivia Revolution. Several staff members have attended events held by the group, who also have experience running programs for libraries. The event would occur at 6:30 or 7:00 p.m. on the first Friday of Summer Reading. The program typically runs for 90 minutes with four sections of increasingly challenging trivia in a variety of categories. There would be first and second place prizes of gift cards to local businesses for the winners. The goal is to attract a different variety of residents who may not have participated in the summer reading program or library programs at all and get people excited for what the library has to offer going forward.

Youth Services Librarian, Amanda Ort is the chairperson of Garden State Book Awards Committee 2022-23. It is very exciting news, that she is so involved in this important NJLA committee.

The Youth Services Department is holding an Earth Day program in April, to learn about composting and recycling. Twenty families registered for Maker's Day Take Home Kits, which included a Pet Painting, where family's pets will make their own paintings which will be on display for National Library Week in April.

The Friends of the Library collected \$485 from Love Your Library Month. The first Lifetime Learning series begins this month, with Dr. Bob Butts. The Friends monthly movie has been rescheduled from Wednesday night to Friday afternoon, in the hopes of attracting a larger audience. Friends members will be there to provide snacks and promote the group. Although ultimately, we may move away from holding monthly movies, this month's selection is Belfast, which was nominated for several Academy Awards.

Committee Reports: The evaluation committee met and is working to streamline the yearly evaluation for the Library Director. They will meet again to continue to work on the details.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

Jackie and Kathy McGroarty met with the owners of The Coffee Potter to discuss the possibility of a coffee area in the library. Due to the extent of this project, it is not feasible for this to be considered for our library.

Janet Ark made a motion to accept the Landscaper's contract for 2022. The contract is \$300.00 more than last year. Eileen Jankunis seconded. Motion passed.

Ed Carpenito mentioned the decline in the library's circulation statistics. Jackie will reach out to the library directors in Morris County and see if they are experiencing the same situation and also if they have any insights as to why there is a decline.

Ed Carpenito brought up an article in the *New York Times* discussing the most banned books. Jackie will let us know what books we own that are on this list for our edification.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:50 pm made by Eileen Jankunis and seconded by Mary Grant. Motion passed.