

FLETCHER MEMORIAL LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DATE: March 9, 2023

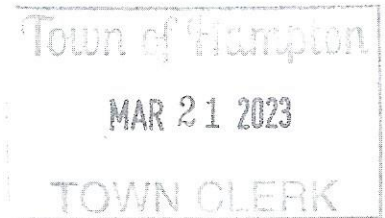
Present: Andstrom, Astin, Burten, Cardwell, Davis, Haldas, Hochstetter, Kaye, Larsen, McCabe, O'Brien

Absent: 0

Call to order: 5:05 PM

Audience for citizens: x

Seating of alternate: x



Approval of minutes: Notes accepted as amended. 1. Haldas; 2nd Burten. All approve.

Bookkeeper's report: Haldas

1. Why are our electric bills so high lately? Eversource is now charging \$.25/KWH. What are the cheaper providers? O'Brien will research.
2. Question concerning US Treasury— Haldas will call Alex at Shane Navratil for clarification.
3. Larsen: book expenses do not show clearly in Key Bank's "Reconciliation Detail" forms. Cardwell – we have to figure this out among our various accounts at the end of the year. Larsen – yes, she keeps track of all the book expenses.

Librarian's report (Andstrom):

1. Library showing activity although February's cold weather kept some patrons and children at home. Ex.: 'Take Your Child to the Library event had only 1 participant due to weather.
2. Group meetings are all active and well-attended.
3. Upcoming events: Easter Egg Hunt is being planned. Pollinator Event is planned for April 29; board approves the possibility of a concurrent bake sale (R. De Cesare to plan this).
4. Some light bulbs are out – Burten to remedy situation.

Assistant Librarian's report (Larsen): X

On-going business:

1. Programs: All active. Upper Shelf Gallery exhibits will be set throughout the season once O'Brien confirms October artist.
2. Volunteer Spotlight – Cardwell has spoken to Regan who will continue articles next month.

3. Pollinator Event – April 29th. Hampton Conservation Commission has offered \$100 to go towards speakers' fee, in return for equal billing on program – approved. Kaye – will produce a digital flyer for HES principal to email to all parents. Andstrom - has ordered 200 packets of free seeds from UConn Extension program which can be distributed at event. Cardwell – working on which plants to order.
4. Maintenance:
 - a. Painting – We have recv'd a bid for \$12,500 which includes east and south sides of building and includes carpentry repairs to soffits. Cardwell – will get more details and compare to other bids.
 - b. Fire alarm system – McCabe and Kaye have met with a new possible provider (Kevin @ Vantage Communication & Alarm). He inspected our present system and declared it “inoperable;” he will give us an estimate on replacing it, while using some of the equipment which is already in place. NOTE: For comparison purposes, Haldas installed his own house alarm system at a cost of ~\$150 for materials and monthly fee of \$20.
 - c. We need to set up an appointment with Bob Inman to give us an assessment of physical needs. Question – what will he charge us? Davis to inquire.
5. Key Bank Grant – O'Brien reports that KB requires totally different wording on our request and that their expectations differ drastically from what we were led to expect. Perhaps this grant will not work for us, but we may as well submit our proposal anyway. Hochstetter: if we do not get this grant we might apply to the Humanities Council for same.
6. Volunteer Appreciation Gifts – Cardwell has purchased nine \$50 gift cards in presentation boxes. General positive acclaim.

New business:

Davis: Music concerts being planned include Hammer Dulcimer demonstration/concert, and concert by Sally Rogers and Howie Bursen.

Adjourned: Motion to adjourn Burten; 2nd Hochstetter. Meeting ended by consensus at 5:05.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Davis, secretary