

May 7, 2015

Fletcher Memorial Library

Present: Margaret Haraghey, Anne Christie, Sonja Larson, Janice Trecker, Lee Astin, Beth Reagan. Susan Hochstetter, Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m.

The minutes of the April meeting were approved as submitted.

Anne read the librarian's report. We had 161 adult patrons and 25 children in April. 147 books were checked out, along with 59 DVD's and 7 audio books. 75 volumes were requested via ILL and three new library cards were issued. The Story Time, Song & Play continues Friday mornings. Two babies come regularly. The knitting group continues, although less regularly now that the nice weather has arrived. The Guitar Tuning Workshop with Mark Davis is ongoing and as more people are expected, the board approved moving the group upstairs.

Deb attended two off-site meetings for the Quiet Corner Reads program. She has assembled some information on museum passes and obtained a list of the costs. The board decided to ask Deb to contact some of the small area libraries and find out what passes they offer and whether the passes are restricted to the local towns people or not.

At the moment, we have two free passes, one for the Wadsworth Atheneum and one for the Old State House. The board decided to purchase one for \$75 for the New Britain Museum of Art. Beth pointed out that the Tantaquidgeon Museum in Uncasville is free and she has some cards which she will drop off to let people know about the Museum. Anne pointed out that people in town probably don't know about the passes that we do have. Deb will do a little notice for the Gazette about the passes and the free Tantaquidgeon Museum.

In other library business, Leslie White and John Yanouzas have volunteered to work Wednesday nights at the library.

The board approved of the overdue book policy, but declined to renew the old HP color copier warranty.

Sue and Anne discussed the porch repairs. We have had two very different estimates and need to get at least a third. Sue has three new names to follow up with and Mike Chapel has another possible name. One of the difficulties has been getting estimates for the same amount of work. The board did decide that porch repairs would be a good use for the Stone money and we will pay for the eventual work out of the bequest. In the meantime, the corner of the porch will be taped off to keep people away from the poorly supported part of the structure.

We must also plan for some painting. Anne suggested having the eventual contractor prime the wood and then get in a painter as we need the whole east side done.

Sue reported on the archivist Betsy Pittman's visit. Basically Ms. Pittman felt that the volumes in the history room did not merit exceptional protection for, with the exception of a few volumes like *The Squirrels and Other Fur Bearers*, all were available either digitally or in other libraries. Her thought was to put a screen door on the room so that they got good air circulation. Given this assessment, the library board did not see a need to get a special cabinet which the archivist thought would be of limited benefit. Lee has agreed to go through the books and begin repairs on them. The board felt this a good plan. The books may not be particularly valuable but are interesting as a collection and an indication of literary habits in earlier Hampton.

The board voted to have the Vanguard dividends directly deposited into our checking account for use in sustaining the library and its programs.

There was a lengthy discussion of the proposed library sign, including material, costs, placement and position of the sign. At the moment, we have no firm prices on the sign and quite widely different estimates of the cost for granite posts. Once we have firm prices, the board must decide whether to go ahead now with the sign and whether it should be perpendicular to the building or facing the road.

The meeting concluded with Sue's report on the surveys taken at the Wednesday Night Opening. People love the library and had compliments especially for the book selection and variety. They would like to see a book discussion group and possibly a writing group or arts and crafts.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm.

The next meeting is June 4 at 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janice Trecker