

Amherst Town Library Board of Trustees Minutes October 21, 2024.

Attendees: Amy Lapointe, Nancy Baker, Steve Mantius, Toni Dinkel, Dave Hallenback, Liz Larson, Gretchen Pyles, Nancy Head (remote), Jim Kuhnert (remote)

Meeting called to order at 5:17 p.m. when Dave Hallenback arrived and there was a quorum. Minutes from the September meeting were unanimously approved (Nancy motioned, Steve seconded). There was no public comment.

The director's report was read prior to the call to order. Statistics were reviewed. Amy said she hopes to get the door count back to pre-Covid levels. Circulation of materials remained flat, except for digital media, while program attendance has increased over the past year, although child/teen attendance is down compared to previous year. Steve reported that the library is still under budget for the FY 2024-25. Amy presented an early draft of the proposed 2025-26 budget and explained how it was formulated. Increases in benefits reflect personnel changes.

Upcoming programs were reviewed. The Boardman concert was discussed and a refreshment signup will be sent out to trustees. Liz and Dan Faiella will be performing Celtic fiddle and guitar music, replacing Fredrich Moyers who was more expensive and had ultimately withdrawn.

New gifts were accepted and unanimously approved (Steve motioned, Dave seconded): Nipmugs, \$104.07 for purchase of books in memory of Ann Krantz; Friends of the Library, \$4450 for purchase of museum passes.

New Business: Dave brought up the subject of AI and presented a short slide show, "Changing Roles for Library Trustees Due to AI and Related Technologies." Points highlighted were ethical and privacy issues, staff training and development, and decision-making on integration of the technology in everyday library operation. A short discussion followed.

Meeting was adjourned 6:02 pm (Steve motioned, Toni seconded).

Next meeting: November 18, 2024 5:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Dinkel (interim secretary)