

Ipswich Public Library Board of Trustees
Monday, January 9th, 2023

Meeting called to order at 6:03 pm, upstairs conference room

Present: Nora Blake (library director), George Gray (chair), Susie Green, Dorothy Johnson, Ellen Maher (secretary), Jennifer Norton, Lawrence Pszenny (vice chair), Thomas Smith (treasurer), Douglas Stewart

Absent: Lisa Palance

In Attendance: Stephen Crane, Ipswich Town Manager

Report from Friends: Membership has ticked up nicely from the newest Constant Contact email message, which is now reaching current members. The Bookshop saw a very healthy increase in sales in the month of January; used book donations are now scheduled for the first Wednesday of every month, which has also been a positive change for volunteers. The Bookshop even got a kind mention in the Children's Room Newsletter. As has been feared for some time, the Hellenic Center is now officially priced out of the Friends' reach, but Ms. Blake has found an excellent and surprisingly affordable new home for the Johnson Lecture Series: The Ipswich Country Club.

Minutes: approved

Correspondence: none

Citizen's Queries: none

Director's Report: Ms. Blake brought the board up to speed on even newer library doings: Ipswich Native Jenny Jackson has been booked for a reading and signing in the Rogers Room on March 18th. FinCom will review the library budget on Tuesday February 28th. Library staff are working with the Boston Bruins on a pajama drive, hoping to donate new pajamas to children in need.

Treasurer's Report: There will be a meeting of the Investment Committee on the 27th. Considering market turmoil, the report is more positive than expected.

Committee Reports:

The Following Committees have nothing to report: Cheers and Landscaping

Buildings and Grounds: The potted plant outside the Children's Room keeps getting blown over. The Town has asked for two capital items for the Library in this year's budget - the chiller, which is tricky to retrofit and find in an electric form (per the town's commitment to renewable energy), and adding network ports for additional staff workstations and more flexibility for use of the building in the future.

Art: For their spring event, the Arts Committee has contracted magician Jean Melies to do a show on March 10th.

Investments: Our current slate of investments is balanced and in good shape. Mr. Smith suggests developing a trustee handbook to foster general transparency and smooth transitions between officers, which was a well-

received idea. Mr. Gray will reach out to long-time committee member David Scudder to see if he wants to attend the next meeting.

Old Business: Happily, Mr. Crane will take on the long delayed discussion with the Bradstreet memorializers. The library is still not having luck in finding a part time archivist, but Ms. Blake is pleased with the most recent round of assistant director candidates, and hopes to have good news to report by next month.

New Business: Inspired by the Strategic Planning discussions and survey responses, Ms. Blake brought two new options for vision statements, which inspired a lively discussion since each was well received. She will go back to the drawing board, and back to the informal committee working on it with her, and combine the two statements for later board approval.

Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.