

Ipswich Public Library Board of Trustees

Monday, April 10th, 2023

Meeting called to order at 6:07 pm, upstairs conference room

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

Absent: none

Report from Friends: Ms. Norton is happy to report that the Friends have a new board member, Theresa Gallo-Toth (sp?), who pending a vote will also become the group's treasurer. Last Wednesday marked another successful donation day, and the next book sale will be May 13th. The upcoming Johnson lecture on May 16th has 200 registrations already out of the 300 seats available at its new location.

Minutes: approved

Correspondence: none

Citizen's Queries: none

Director's Report: Ms. Blake is happy to report that new assistant director Haley Hart is fantastic - cheerful and competent. Early today Ms Blake made an employment offer to a part-time archivist; it will be delightful to have the library fully staffed again, finally. Continuing this run of good news, the proposed extended hours (including the restoration of Tuesday evenings) have been accepted as part of upcoming budget proposed for Town Meeting. The Children's Room's Michelle Guvendiren will present on her aid project for Ghana. In the upcoming months, staff will undergo ALICE training as well as work in conflict resolution.

Treasurer's Report: There continues to be differentials between Cape Ann Saving's report numbers and ours; Mr. Smith believes he has located the source of the error. There have been many formal discussions of late about the level of acceptable risk in investments; CAS has offered another meeting, but the committee feels the issue has been sufficiently covered in correspondence and further discussion is unnecessary.

Committee Reports:

Cheers: When she returns from the sunny south, Ms. Green will bring a welcoming gift to Ms. Hart.

Buildings and Grounds: With the spring, there's much to do on the grounds. There's a master plan in place for a pollinator garden, with the assistance of Monarch Gardener Katie Hone. The Water Department will help with examples of drought resistant gardening; Ms Johnson is organizing all with support, insight and funding from many other local organizations.

Art: After a successful spring show, the committee will meet in the coming months to begin planning on a fall event.

Landscaping: The previously-discussed questionable rhododendron is, in fact, deceased; the committee might come back to the Trustees for some financial assistance in its removal and replacement.

Investments: The committee was involved in meetings and discussions about the investment portfolio as stated above.

Nominations: Ms. Johnson has talked with current officers and is confident the nomination process will soon be done.

Old Business: none

New Business: The next meeting needs to be rescheduled from the May 8th to the 15th. The Trustees will begin planning for the triumphant return of Vehicle Day.

Meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.