

Minutes of the Wead Library Board Meeting May 20, 2024

Present: Melissa Benardot, President *absent
Anne Werley Smallman, Secretary *absent
Chris Eggsware, Vice President
Lucille Poirier, board member
Jeanne LeClerc, Treasurer
Chelsie Russo, Librarian I
Mary McDonald, Principal Library Clerk

Call to order: 7:05 pm by Chris Eggsware, Vice President.

Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of the April 2024 meeting by Chris Eggsware/second by Jeanne LeClerc. Approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Reports: Motion to accept the Treasurers Report March & April 2024 bills as paid, by Lucille Poirier/second by Jeanne LeClerc. Approved unanimously.

Bills for April: Jeanne LeClerc moved, Chris Eggsware seconded. Jeanne thought the bill for March/April snowplowing was high. Mary said that the hedges took a hit from the salt the company used. She will talk to him about this for next year. Mary also said that the company came back this spring to reseed the lawn that was dug up. Approved unanimously.

Communications:

- Thank you to Bonesteel and Malone Home and Farm Center for donation of seeds for patrons' gardens.
- Received an email from Natalie J Stewart-Smith, daughter of Eunice Stewart who was a former library employee just checking in
- Received \$500 donation from North Country Saving Bank – thanks will be sent
- \$100 donation received Molly McKee in memory of Marlene LaBombard and \$100 in memory of David Minnich – thanks will be sent

Library Report by Nicole Andre: *see attached*

Air Conditioner – Mary reported that Cornerstone came to repair the system and said the fiction room unit will be obsolete after 2024. It is also tied to the heating system. There is also a problem with the clearance for a new unit – it is 14 inches but should be 21 inches. Lucille suggested that it might be a good idea to see if the Library could get an exemption due to the historic building housing the library.

Librarian Reports by Chelsie Russo and Karlee Martin: *see attached*

- Yearbook update: Anticipated time frame was end of August. However, with the NNYLN staff situation, that may change.

Old Business

- **Trustee Training Sharing Session** Jeanne Leclerc reported on *Libraries Foster Social Connection: Responding to Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation*. Jeanne reported that loneliness and isolation are diseases; they happened before COVID. The physical impacts are as dangerous as smoking 15 cigarettes a day, 6 drinks a day, inactivity and weight gain. It lessens a strong immune system, a good recovery from illness and a chance of longevity. She said that libraries are trying to bridge the gap where they can be safe, inclusive place to socialize. Also, learning improves self and social esteem. Examples of library activities that can help to address loneliness and isolation include programs in the arts, yoga, puzzles, storytelling, book clubs, walking, knitting, gardening, adult coloring, and technology for seniors. Jeanne mentioned that the Wead Library does many of these programs. Ways that relationships can build social connections between people and purpose include relationships with staff, serving on boards, volunteers and intergenerational interactions. Libraries are a safe and welcoming place for all people, a place to share ideas, a place where there is someone to listen. She suggested ideas we might add are programs for new parents, bereavement groups and groups associated with autism.
- **Roof/window project update** - Mary McDonald doesn't have much to report. The firm communicated with Mary on April 23 that they have started to work on drawings and hazmat testing re: asbestos. Jeanne asked if there was still a September start date and Mary said she didn't know and will reach out.

New Business

Ramp and Entryway Repair – Mary said that there is deterioration on the ramp, the front entrance steps (portico) and a crack in the building's outside wall. Seven C's, the company that repaired the stone wall surrounding the property, provided a total estimate of \$10,500. Due to time constraints, Mary checked with Melissa Benardot to make sure this would be okay. Melissa gave her the go ahead.

Since the portico repairs was a project completed 12 years ago, questions were raised about the life of mortar. Chelsie suggested that it would be a good idea to create a notebook with this type of information so that periodically we could check on and anticipate issues that could arise. Perhaps, if the library had noticed deterioration a few years ago, it might have been a less costly repair.

Wead Financial Policy and Procedures review – Lucille moved, and Jeanne seconded that we table this discussion for our next meeting, Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session – Jeanne moved, and Chris seconded that we table this discussion for our next meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be June 17 at 7pm.

Adjourned at 8:00pm on motion by Lucille Poirier /second by Jeanne Leclerc.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucille Poirier
Board of Trustees