

Somersworth Public Library Board of Trustees

Minutes of Meeting of 5 February 2019 held at the Library: First Draft

Present: Judy Goodnow, Chair; Laurie Ashe; Donna Donovan; Susan Totter, Library Director; Pius Charles Murray

- I. Call to order at 7:05 pm by the Chair
- II. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes of the January 2019 Board of Library Trustees as amended was made by Ms. Donovan and seconded by Ms. Ashe. Motion passed by majority vote (3-0-1); Mr. Murray abstained because he did not attend the January 2019 meeting.

- III. Library Director's Report

The Library Director reported introducing Tinker Table Programs. The Tuesday afternoon program (from 2:00-3:30 pm) is for children aged 6+ through elementary school grades. The Thursday program (also from 2:00-3:30 pm) is for children aged three to six. There are a variety of activities (e.g. building kits, drawing, and thinking games).

The Library Director also reported that the library has been waiting on the city for the installation of new phones. According to the Library Director, there are two options (WIFI or fiber through City Hall) for phone installation.

The Library Director announced an adult services program for Thursday, 7 March 2019, from 6:00-8:00 pm. This program is called "Ask a Muslim Anything" and is intended to encourage dialogue. The Library Director described the program as essentially a series of questions posed by audience participants. The Trustees were enthusiastic and recommended marketing the program through the Library's Facebook page.

The Trustees asked about story-time as it was not mentioned in the Director's report. The Library Director said that since story-time is an ongoing program, she did not feel it necessary to list it every month.

Motion to accept the Library Director's report was made by Ms. Ashe and seconded by Ms. Donovan. Motion passed unanimously.

- IV. Old Business

- A. Proposed FY 2020 Library Budget

There was extensive discussion about the FY20 proposed budget. Ms. Ashe remarked that she was surprised how few people in Somersworth actually come to the library when she solicited input from her neighbors. The Library Director confirmed Ms. Ashe's observation. According to the Library Director, the city at times seems to take its crown jewel of the Somersworth Public Library for granted.

Ms. Donovan recommended advertising library programs in *The Radar* as one way to increase the library's visibility in town. During the spring 2019 budget hearings and preparation, Ms. Donovan also recommended that the trustees blast the at-large city councilors and their Ward councilor with emails seeking increased financial support for the Somersworth Public Library. The trustees agreed.

Ms. Donovan recommended mining Facebook for data that could be helpful during the budget process. The Library Director said that the Library has used its Facebook page for communicating with the public. For example, during the last snowstorm, the Library's Facebook page said that the Library would be open until 5:00 pm.

The Library Director announced that the SAY Program would be discontinued as it is too much work for the staff.

V. New Business

The Chair inquired about a program that the Dover Public Library was using. The Library Director replied that it is simply too much money for Somersworth.

Ms. Ashe asked if it would be possible to identify programs that are successful in libraries the size of Somersworth's. The Library Director replied that there are too many variables.

The Chair recommended starting to update library policies beginning with the library's book policy.

VI. Expenditures

The trustees undertook a review of the library's current FY19 expenditures and found everything in order.

VII. Next meeting: The next meeting of the Library Trustees will be held on Tuesday, 5 March 2019, at 7:00 pm at the library.

VIII. Adjournment: motion to adjourn at 7:55 pm as made by Ms. Donovan and seconded by Ms. Ashe. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Pius Charles Murray