

Falmouth Public Library Minutes for Jan. 14, 2020

Meeting of the Board of Library Trustees

Falmouth Public Library, Trustees Room
300 Main Street, Falmouth, MA 02540

Present: Trustees Jenifer Alai, Kathryn Elder, Sylvia Szulkin, Margaret Finnell, Judith Fenwick, Lindsay Hopewood, Kathie Mount.

Linda Collins, Library Director, Jennifer Woodward, Assistant Library Director

Guests: Len Miele (liaison and VP of Friends of Falmouth Public Library), Marcia Easterling (LWV Observer).

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:52 PM by the chair.
2. Reports from Library Support Groups.
 - a) Len Miele, Friends of Falmouth Library reported there was no December meeting of the Friends.
 - b) Sylvia reported the Support Fund has formed a subcommittee to go over bylaws. The Superintendent of Schools has met with Linda to see how the school libraries can collaborate and they are receptive to any ideas about this we may have. The Support Fund group is eager to contribute to ongoing improvements to the North Falmouth branch including landscaping and pavement of walkways or any other recommendations from the Library Board of Trustees.
 - c) Lindsay (Building and Grounds) reported on meeting with Joe Netto and they discussed replacing the asphalt walkway, redirecting drainage, fencing and plantings. All proposed changes will need to go before the town administration.

Motion by Sylvia Szulkin that the library director will convey our recommendations for upgrades to the North Falmouth library branch in writing to the town administration. If the town approves the recommended changes, the costs will be born in part by private funds including the Support Fund. The proposed changes will include the following:

1. Replace the asphalt walkway with a concrete walkway.
2. Re-direction of drainage.
3. Removal of steps leading to non-existing door.
4. Add fencing between the parking lot and lawn.
5. Add exterior lighting to parking area and lined parking spaces.

6. Add plantings.

Seconded by Judy Fenwick. Unanimously approved.

3. Treasurer's Report. Margot reported that a couple more programs are being supported by the Trustees we received two donations. Next month the Mass Audubon will provide a presentation on winter birds and author Sara DiGregorio will speak.
4. Library Director's Report.
 - a) Linda reported that the Classic Car Club has requested use of the main branch lawn.

Motion to approve this application was made by Kathie Mount, then seconded by Sylvia Szulkin. Unanimously approved.

- b) Linda spoke with a Water Quality technician regarding the aeration of Mill Pond at the East Falmouth branch. This is in the planning stages and will require a permit from the Conservation Commission.
- c) Three candidates were interviewed for the North Falmouth branch librarian position and an offer has been made.
- d) Quotes for replacing windows in the main branch are from last June and the town has asked to re-bid this work.
- e) Adopting a fine-free policy for the Falmouth public libraries was discussed.

Motion was made by Kathie Mount for the Falmouth public library system to adopt a fine-free policy. Seconded by Sylvia Szulkin. Unanimously approved.

5. Assistant Director's Report; Jennifer Woodward.
 - a) About 60 people attended the Legislative Luncheon in Brewster. The Commissioner of the MBLC asked for more funding to clear the wait list in the state for building projects. David Vieira is working to allow CPC funds to be used not only for preserving physical documents but also to digitize the content.
 - b) The library role regarding the Federal Census is one of advertising. Library computers are available for use to fill out the census electronically.
6. Chair's Report.
 - a) Sylvia is preparing a written report to be presented to Board of Selectmen in March.

- b) Discussion took place about how to form more collaborations with the community. Could we reinstate a collaboration with Pediatricians and Friends of Falmouth Public Libraries? We would like to present a book in a basket that is given at the child's first-year doctor visit. Linda will check into this further. Ideas included Atria but there is already a librarian on staff there. Chamber of Commerce, Meals on Wheels, the Senior Center and Neighborhood Falmouth were suggested. The protocol for communications between Trustees and town or state officials was discussed. The chair speaks for the board.
 - c) Potential programming was discussed regarding the passage of the 19th amendment. The library staff is working on this.
7. Committee Reports.
- a) Judy Fenwick reported that the policy committee met and reviewed the 2018 proposed comments by town counsel.
 - b) The Resource Committee will meet in February.

Motion to adjourn at 9:23 PM **Moved**
by Sylvia Szulkin.
Seconded by Kathie Mount
Committee vote: All in favor