

Meeting of The Essex Free Library Board of Trustees

October 16,2024

Present:

In person - Emily Gibbs, Janet Watts, Pam Blake, Victoria Tibbits

Remote - Allan Ramsey, Caitlin Corliss, Bonnie Doble

Regrets:

Marie Froeschl, Iris Banks,

1. **Call to order:** 7:00 pm
2. **Agenda changes** - Allan will review webinar he attended after all business has been reviewed.
3. **Review and Approve Minutes** - Emily moved to approve with noted changes and Pam seconded. All approved.
4. **Announcements** - Janet's son got married and Allan is a new grandfather!
5. **Library Director's Report - highlights**
 - All the staff changes are working well.
 - New programs for teens and working adults are going well.
 - Next year for Essex Community Day, EFL will have a presence. Keeping the lawn games will make it fun.
 - Library cards expiring. Suggestions to post the information on Front Porch Forum and website making it clear that Libby and Hoopla will not work unless cards are renewed. Victoria checking into automated message to card holders.
 - We were not awarded a Library Capital Grant but should feel fortunate about how well EFL is doing vs. the libraries that received the grants. They definitely needed the help for necessities.

6. Business -

1. Strategic Plan - Reviewed and all agreed it was well written and easy to understand. It is a 3 year plan vs. a 5 year plan because if the new building plan goes through, it will change things quite a bit. It was noted that the staff is already doing some of the new ideas included in the plan. Wonderful! Pam moved to accept with minor word smithing changes and Emily seconded it. All approved. The plan is housed

at the library and town offices. It is posted on the EFL website and used to evaluate the Head Librarian.

2. Monthly Friends Update - Nov. 2 is Cozy Nook Craft Fair. Still looking for 2 crafters. Will be at EFL and Memorial Hall. Everything is going smoothly. Just need some bake sale help. No garden tour this year. Will be having it every other year and will alternate with the Jericho garden tour. Will be a loss of about \$1500 so will be looking at other ways to raise money. Talk of something big when/if EFL moves to a new location.

3. Elect Officers - Tabled until all members are available.

7. Webinar Review by Allan - Highlights-

- 39 people in attendance
- reviewed 7 sections of Act 150
- Book challenges - the burden of proof lays with the challenger - libraries do not discriminate - 1st & 14th Amendments are in play.
- Age of privacy changed from 16 to 12
- Open meeting laws reviewed. Very important that no patron names are mentioned in open meetings.
- Allan has slides from the webinar if anyone would like them.
- Janet sending out email to trustees with link to sign up for any webinar that would be of interest.

8. Adjourned: 8:06 pm