

Brown Public Library Board of Trustees

Minutes – 1/21/25

Present: Maryann Beaupre (President, Chair), John Stevens (Treasurer), Dale Kunkel (assistant Treasurer), Tossy Garrett (Secretary taking minutes), Denise MacMartin (MAL), Kelli Sutton-Bosley (MAL), Gail Hall (VP), Sherri Brickey (Director), Rebecca Pearish (youth librarian).

4:00- Meeting Called to Order (Maryann), Agenda review. There are several changes to the agenda- we took off the biblio streaming, added Rebecca's presentation, the Report to Town, tree pruning, glass in the yard, computer chairs, and executive session.

4:02- Previous Minutes (Tossy). John moved to accept the minutes of the November meeting, Dale moved, Denise seconded; voted & approved.

4:02- Treasurer's report (John). Everything is up to date, and going smoothly. Gail moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, Kelli seconded; voted and approved.

4:03- Librarian's Report (Sherri). Sherri included the total stats for 2024 in the report as well as December's numbers. Our annual appeal has reached over \$14k, which is the best its ever done! There were several events in December. Sherri is working on the annual report, should be finished after she gets some assistance from the Dept of Libraries. The youth library also had many events.

4:06- Rebecca's presentation. We've been growing the Lego side of the youth library, including Lego Robotics. We have two sets of these kits, which meant that the program run this year had 4 kids per set instead of the recommended 2 kids per set. Rebecca put a lot of effort into planning and had help volunteer from Norwich for the advanced set, which allowed the program to be a success but it was a lot of waiting and turn-taking for the children. Rebecca proposed to purchase 2 additional sets for a total of 4; we don't need to purchase Ipads since Norwich has donated 5 ipads, huge thanks to the University! There is also a private donor in the community that would match up to \$320 (\$160 per kit), which makes the total request from the library \$320 to add the two additional Lego Robotics kits to the library. Tossy moves to fund Lego Robotics kit, John seconded; voted and approved.

4:13- Old Business:

- 1. Wifi & Improvements in Community Room** No news from the town about these things. John will ask the select board where they stand.
- 2. Town Report-** Tossy will type that up and send to town soon.
- 3. Amended Tech Plan-** no comments about this. Sherri thanks Gail and the Friends of the Library for purchasing new headphones for our patron computers.
- 4. Glass in the Yard-** The window to the bookstore got broken and the town has not completed the repair. Another child was playing with the glass this past weekend, we need to get the town to repair this quickly. We have brought this up with the town several times already. John will ask again for the plexiglass to be installed there to protect the window from further damage as well.

4:19- New Business

- 1. Chairs for Patron computers-** Sherri reports they are very old and falling apart. We need 6, one for each computer. Sherri will put together a proposal. Tossy mentioned that the VT State Surplus store has a lot of office chairs if we wanted to go that route. John mentioned that we bought the current chairs used from an office.

2. **Masons Gift.** We received a \$25k donation from the Masons, with no stipulations about how to use it. We discussed some options, including the plan we had researched for a private computer desk/meeting space. We could also look at the tech plan and follow the next steps on that. The money is in a CD for the next 9 months, so we will formulate a plan by September 2025.
3. **Telemedicine-** Gail presented that the state is encouraging libraries to have a telemedicine spot for patrons who can't get to the doctor. She mentioned the possibility of getting grants for this, and it might be the same booth as the private meeting space. The issue comes down to space, which we don't have a lot of.
4. **Trees-** We got a quote for \$300 for someone to prune the apple trees in the front, we agreed we will go forward with this. Maybe they will also prune the cedar trees. Gail mentioned that the Friends still has a small pool of money available to help the library for things like this, if they give approval.

4:31- Other business: No other business.

4:31- Public Comment: no public present.

4:32- Executive Session: John moved we go into executive session to discuss hiring an employee, Denise seconded. Voted and entered executive session.

Kelli moves to leave executive session, John Session. Voted and exited.

4:43 – Dale moved to adjourn the meeting, Kelli seconded; voted & moved. Meeting adjourned.