

Minutes of Holliston Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting – Nov. 6, 2013

Present: Bill Heuer, Cathy Soucy, Pat Fuller and Nancy Baron. Also present Leslie McDonnell, Library Director.

Pat moved to accept the minutes from the meeting of Oct. 9, 2013. Cathy seconded, all in favor.

Director's Report:

- 1. Falling Circ throughout Minuteman** – Leslie attended a Director's Roundtable where this issue was raised and various strategies to combat it were discussed. Among these was the thought that libraries might put more resources into buying multiples of best-sellers, rather than large numbers of critically acclaimed books that might not go out more than once. Browsers tend to want to read best-sellers. Bill expressed concern about good, high-quality books being passed over in favor of more popular fiction. The question was also raised about how many active users we have. Leslie will bring numbers next month.
- 2. New England Library Association meeting** – Leslie and Jen traveled to Portland, Maine to attend this and felt it was very useful. Among sessions they attended were an examination of library trends by Pew Research and strategies for working with patrons and their devices. There were also sessions on book groups, social media, dealing with difficult patrons, Maker Space and trends in e-books. Leslie reports that e-book use is up but the publishers are still making it difficult for libraries to use them. A state-wide e-book initiative actually seems to be moving forward, however. Leslie speculates that e-books will likely end up being handled through 'metered' usage.
- 3. New Head of Circ** – Tammy and Amy have applied. There appears to be a good pool of candidates, including several from within Minuteman. Leslie expects to have someone in place by mid-December.
- 4. General update** - Jen is currently weeding the YA non-fiction. Students are coming in less often to work on school projects. There seems to be a related trend of people coming in to use the library more as a community space or a place to quietly read or study, rather than as a reference resource. Bill asked about the people-counters we'd borrowed previously to monitor foot traffic but apparently they are no longer available.
- 5. The Continuing Telephone Pole Saga** – Leslie continues to play telephone tag over the issue of the hanging pole stump. There appear to be at least four 'interested parties', including Chief Cassidy (who has already removed his stuff from the pole), Comcast, Verizon and NStar also seem to have property on the pole that may need to be removed, and there may also be a fire alarm and possibly a municipal light attached as well. Leslie will continue to pursue this.

6. **New Business** – Bill suggests that we review our last 5-year plan as we're now about 3 years into it. Leslie will bring it to the next meeting. The new computers are being used a great deal. Chuck is getting a new router for them. Pat will check on lining up Leslie Goldenburg's cookies as a staff gift again.
7. **Friends Update** – Shelly Bochner is the new President of the Friends. Leslie is getting estimates for replacement of the sink, counter and cabinets in Tech Services, and will ask the Friends to cover this if the estimates seem reasonable.
8. **Next Meeting:** Dec. 11, at 7pm in the Gilman Room.

Nancy motioned to adjourn, Jim seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Baron