

Holliston Public Library Board of Trustees – Minutes from Nov. 7, 2018

Present: Trustees Bob Ostrow, Bob Malone, Jim Pond, Karla Albert, Kara Peterson, Nancy Baron, and Library Director Leslie McDonnell.

Karla motions to accept minutes from Oct. 3, 2018, Nancy seconds, all in favor.

Director's Report

Building Updates:

1. Former Staff Room – Walls are open, very little evidence of mold. After this floor tiles can be installed. Insurance will cover cost of insulating the opened wall but not others. Karla suggests contacting Mass Save to see if we could get blown-in insulation for the other walls.
2. Roof – Project is moving ahead. Leslie has told them payment is contingent on installation of a drainpipe to prevent window wells from flooding again.
3. Heating – Martell (heating contractor) will fix the heat controller for the former Local History Room. Condensers have been successfully swapped, they are still working out the air-handling unit.
4. Structural Issues – Lower level is open to the public. Upstairs is closed beyond the archway. Leslie has run long cables in order to run the computers in the open area. Russo-Barr (engineering company) was already on site due to roofing project. They feel the sinking ceiling issue is probably recent. The still-present roofers will cut a hole in the ceiling in YA to allow access to the broken joists. Insurance will cover cost of repairs, which is scheduled to begin Friday morning, Nov. 9. Trusses will be temporarily supported. It's anticipated that the whole project could take a month or so. It may be necessary to close parts, or possibly the whole library for a few days. As always, the library staff has been amazingly flexible and has cheerfully adapted to the changing situation.

\$1000 Increase to Children's Budget:

1. Tracy proposes to spend the additional funding to finance a 4-week Mindfulness workshop for grades 3-5, costing \$540.00 and an 8-week after-school math club for grades K-2, called "Crazy 8s". This program would be \$400. She anticipates beginning both in January. Bob M. motions that we expend up to \$1000 on the proposed plan. Kara seconds, all in favor.

Planning for Next Children's Librarian:

1. Tracy will be leaving in about a year, during the 2020 budget cycle. Trustees agree with Leslie that it's time to push for the restoration of a full-time Children's Librarian and agree to put this in the next budget. Ideally the new candidate would be someone with experience but the Town's comparatively low benefits are a hindrance—only 60% of health insurance is covered.

Leslie will consult with other similar-sized libraries to get a sense of how Children's Department staffing works elsewhere.

Rules for New Meeting Room:

1. Brief discussion of possible policy changes. Tabled until next meeting. Leslie will re-draft the old policy incorporating Trustee's suggestions to be discussed in January.

Friends:

1. Clothing drive very successful.
2. One Book – Selection is "Call Me American", about the experiences of a Somali immigrant. The author, Abdi Nor Iftan, has agreed to Skype with us.
3. New book bags are ordered.
4. Friends still do not currently have a president.
5. Lisa Taylor has taken over some of Mike Capello's book sale project. Book sale revenue was off about \$1K this past year.

Next Meeting

Next meeting to be held January 2, 2019.

Adjourn

Nancy motions to adjourn, Jim seconds. Meeting ends at 8:34.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Baron