

Bedford Free Public Library
Library Trustees Minutes for Tuesday, July 11, 2017
7:00 PM • Meeting Room

The Trustees gathered and reviewed and signed the bills.

Present

Trustees: Rachel Field; Emily Mitchell; Robin Grace Silbert; Elizabeth Hacala and Michael Pulizzi were present. Bob Batt and Abby Hafer were absent.

Administration: Richard Callaghan, Library Director; Noreen O’Gara, Assistant Director.

Guests Dot Bergin, *The Bedford Citizen*

The Chair asked if there were any public comments. None were forthcoming.

Meeting called to order at 7:02pm.

Secretary’s Report

June minutes were revised to reflect the correct spelling of Meredith McCulloch’s name and were moved by Elizabeth and seconded by Rachel. The minutes were approved.

Director’s Report

The Trustees reviewed the Director’s Report. In addition to the report, Richard commented on the nice Minuteman article about the Bees. He also noted that the Beekeeper’s report and a video of the bees have been posted to the library’s Facebook page. A few bees were removed in tubes to test for mites. It appears that the name selected for the Queen will be *Amelia Beedelia*.

Richard also floated the idea of inviting patrons to view the monthly beekeeper visits.

The paving work for the Safe Routes to School project in front of the library continues.

The library trustees wish to extend their gratitude to Building Superintendent Ray Barry and Keith Leston from the Facilities Department who graciously came in during the Independence Day weekend and worked tirelessly to get the cooling system up and running in time for Wednesday’s opening. Thank you to both men for going above and beyond.

The Statistical Report showed that in FY17, children’s books accounted for 42% of our circulation, underscoring the value of hiring a second full time children’s librarian for July 1.

Mike moved and Elizabeth seconded approval of the Director’s Report. The report was approved unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Budget Wrap up: Richard confirmed that it was close but we ended FY 17 - June 30th, under budget. We returned a total of \$302.19 to the town.

Board Chair Starting Date Discussion: Elizabeth said that according to former library director Meredith McCulloch, the board chair starting date can be traced back to the founding of the Library Corporation in 1876. The starting date was briefly discussed. No action was taken.

NEW BUSINESS

The Bowie Knife Discussion: In 1972, Charles Hume, a former Bedford Selectman and longtime resident, donated a Bowie (Boo-ee) knife to the Bedford Free Public Library. For many years, the knife was framed and on display in the library. After an appraisal determined that the straight-blade knife was highly collectable and far more valuable than first thought, it was removed and placed in storage. The knife's provenance is uncertain but there is some evidence that it might have been a gift of James Bowie, for whom the original Bowie knife was named, to frontiersman, congressman and soldier Davy Crockett. Crockett, it seems, never met Bowie. However, Bowie's brother Rezin often presented gift knives on his brother's behalf. The question under discussion is what to do with the knife. All trustees present were open to selling the knife to benefit the library but possibly with some restrictions considering its historical value. Richard will seek advice from antique experts as to the best way to handle selling or auctioning the knife and the topic will be revisited at September's meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Step Raises and Appointment

There were no step raises or appointments this month.

Emily gave a brief update on plans for One Book, One Bedford. A keynote speaker has not been selected.

The next Trustees' meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 12th.

Adjournment

Rachel made a motion to adjourn, second by Elizabeth. The motion was carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Meeting minutes are respectfully submitted by Robin Grace, co-secretary.

Documents distributed during the meeting: Agenda; Director's Report dated July 11, 2017; Secretary's Report June 13, 2017; Statement of Expenditures for June 2017; the monthly Statistical Report for June 2017.