

Bedford Free Public Library
Library Trustees Minutes for Tuesday, Feb 13, 2018
7:00PM • Meeting Room

The Trustees reviewed and signed bills. Chair Robert Batt called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Present

Trustees: Robert Batt, Chair, Rachel Field, Elizabeth Hacala, Emily Mitchell, Robin Grace Silbert; Michael Pulizzi (joined at 7:10) Absent: Abby Hafer

Administration: Richard Callaghan, Library Director; Noreen O’Gara, Assistant Director.
Guests: Dot Bergin, *The Bedford Citizen*; Erica Liu, Bedford Finance Committee liaison

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

Secretary’s Report

Emily moved the minutes, with a minor grammatical correction, and Rachel seconded. The minutes passed unanimously.

Director’s Report

The Trustees reviewed the Director’s written report. In addition to the written report, the Trustees discussed:

- The Friends of the Library book sale to be held April 6th to 8th.
- The Friends have also proposed a town-wide mailing to inch up their membership.
- Richard noted that the Friends have been very generous and supportive of library needs and goals.
- Hanscom Field Middle School thanked the library for its donation of copies of *March*, which were used for One Book, One Bedford, 2017.
- The library budget has been approved by the Finance Committee and will be voted on March 26th at the Annual Town Meeting.
- Under the current administration, library services are more in jeopardy than ever. Federal funding for libraries (IMLS) has been zeroed out in the president’s budget. If there is no funding on the federal level, the LSTA grant the library has applied for and hopes to receive will not be funded. Also support that comes to the MBLC from the Federal government would be cut jeopardizing our state aid (\$22,869). Rachel suggested that the board draft a letter to the president, the Congressional Budget Office, and to our U.S. representatives. Emily suggested a letter to Representative Seth Moulton with a cc to the president and to the speaker, Paul Ryan.
- It was also suggested we write a letter to the Bedford Citizen and call Representative Moulton’s office.

The report was moved by Elizabeth, seconded by Emily and approved unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Bowie Knife update

The Bowie knife is at Skinners, Inc. in Marlborough. The auction is set for April 26th.

Bedford Museum update – The library previously determined that hosting an historical museum in the library is not possible considering our own ongoing need for space. The selectmen formed an ad hoc committee and allocated a space in the Old Town Hall. After careful consideration and discussion of the Bedford Flag, the board agreed that the Bedford Flag will remain here due to the fact that it was specifically given into the keeping of the library trustees, the considerable expense expended to refurbish the space for the flag, and the expansive hours the public can view the flag.

Health and Safety

A Bedford resident, under the influence of opioids, passed out in the Ladies Room. The fire department responded. Richard noted that opioid abuse in Bedford has risen and one fatality has been reported. After much discussion, the board concurred that it was open to hearing from other town agencies about what measures might be considered in the future.

New Business

The new group meeting space, tentatively to be called the Trustee Room, will be ready for occupancy once the new furniture arrives. The furniture was purchased with a donation in memory of a dedicated library volunteer, Pat Watson. The Trustee Room will open up the large group meeting space on the second Tuesday of the month. The new space is ADA compliant.

Other Business

- Town election – Saturday, March 10, 2018
- Town Meeting – Monday, March 26, 2018 – Library budget to be approved

There were no step raises or appointments

Chairman Bob Batt, who will step down from the board once his term ends in March, was recognized and thanked for his many years of dedicated service and commitment to the board. The Trustees wish him the best.

Adjournment

Bob made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Robin seconded; it passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:21pm.

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

Documents distributed during the meeting: Agenda; Director's Report dated February 2018; Secretary's Report January 10, 2018; Statement of Expenditures for January 2018; the monthly Statistical Report for January 2018