

Milton Public Library

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Milton Library Community Room, 6 pm

November 8, 2023

Present: Tracy Hughes-Chair, Lauren Blume-Vice Chair (via remote), Beth Bouchard-Treasurer, Alan Fletcher-Secretary, Mike Thompson-Member at Large, Matthew Davis-Director

Public Members: Lorraine Kelm, Willow Longo, Victoria Herman, Lonnie Poland, Lisa Rees, Veronica Valz, Chris Taylor, Christopher Smith, Emily Hecker, Ember Quinn, Dillon Welch

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm, motion by Tracy Hughes and seconded by Alan Fletcher. All were in favor, motion carried.

Agenda Adjustments: None

Public Forum: Victoria Herman furnished a chart with data comparing Colchester, Milton, and Williston. Data was from 2019 and 2022. She advocated a full time certified children's librarian, additional programming for children, additional funding for the library, and work should be done to create a welcoming space in the library for children. Lisa Rees, Veronica Valz, and Christine Smith advocated the library seeking a larger budget. Willow Longo advocated a larger budget with spending going towards a full time children's librarian. Her comments also included the library being open more hours with more practical work spaces. Christine Smith also submitted 3 letters from public residents advocating for a children's librarian. The director explained that the library has never had a full time position for a children's librarian.

Approval of October 11, 2023 Minutes: Mike Thompson motioned to accept library minutes from October 11th, 2023 with an amendment to include names of the public who spoke at the last meeting. Motioned was seconded by Beth Bouchard. All were in favor, motion carried.

Budget Discussion: Director Davis went over the budget and the 3% increase being asked for in this year's budget. He explained that shifting from part time to full time employees will be very expensive and that the library also needs major upgrades with furniture. This would require a major increase in the budget. Alan Fletcher asked what typical periodicals are, and why electronic resources are up 30%. The increase is due to expenses from the growth of Hoopla. Tracey Hughes asked what it would look like if the director asked for a higher budget. He said he could ask for an extension. Lauren Blume would like to see the budget request be much larger and does not think reducing the money for professional development is a good idea. Mike Thompson asked about several budget items. Director Davis explained that priorities were made and that our current internet service is adequate so monies can be spent elsewhere.

Director Davis will adjust the current budget to include a higher increase in salaries. Director Davis will send an email with a budget revision this week.

Friends Report: Mary Beth has been very busy, along with others, getting baskets ready for the raffle.

Staff Feedback: None

Director's Report: Over 20 people attended Silver Screen night. Around 50 people showed up for the night sky program. Over 20 teens showed up for the Halloween party. Dungeons and Dragons is off to a good start. 50 baskets have been created for the basket raffle. Raffle tickets will be sold at the craft show this weekend in addition to being on sale at the library. A summary of upcoming events was shared.

Treasurer's Report: Accounts have not changed except for interest earned.

New Business for Next Agenda: The budget. Next meeting will be December 6, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Beth Bouchard, seconded by Mike Thompson. All in favor motion passed. Meeting ended at 7:45 pm.