

New Marlborough Town Library - January 2023 Meeting of the Trustees

The meeting was called to order on January 18, 2023 at 9:00 AM with Debora O'Brien, Library Director, Sally Turner, Chairperson and Carrie Liba, Trustee, present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved by the Trustees.

Deb opened the meeting by discussing the upcoming planned Adult Programs, which are as follows:

Deb would like to show a documentary film titled "Cycle of Memory" by filmmaker Alex Leff. The film follows Alex and his brother, Koby, as they go on a bicycle journey attempting to recreate their Grandfather's escape from the Great Depression in 1945, by going on a bicycle adventure from Brooklyn to Philadelphia, a journey he documented in photographs. Unfortunately, Grandpa Mel, does not remember this incredible trip due to Alzheimer's disease. The licensing fee for the film is \$300 and includes Alex's participation and a virtual Q&A. The trustees decided the viewing should wait until Spring in order to obtain the highest attendance. Also, the Trustees have decided to ask the Friends of the Library to pay the licensing fee.

Deb would like to host a Q&A session, titled "Ask a Muslim Anything," with Lebanese-American, Robert Azzi, a Muslim from New Hampshire, in which Azzi explains his faith to the community and answers questions from the audience in hopes of changing the divide in the country and addressing, what he refers to as "Islamophobia." The licensing fee for this 90-minute program is \$350, plus round-trip mileage. Discussion ensued and the Trustees feel that this program will be beneficial for the community and should be heavily advertised in places such as the Berkshire Eagle, WSBS, NPR and local sources such as the New Marlborough 5 Village News and Maggie's List. Depending on demand, we may even ask people to call the library in advance to reserve a space. The trustees decided the in-person discussion should wait until Spring, in order to obtain the highest attendance. Also, the Trustees have decided to ask the Friends of the Library to pay the licensing fee and associated advertising costs.

Half-day programs with children from the New Marlborough Central School will begin on Wednesday, January 25th from 11:45AM to 3:00PM, with 12 first through third graders already signed-up. The library will provide bottled water, but, due to food allergies, the children are responsible for bringing their own lunch and snacks. This first program will provide story time, craft time and unstructured play for the children, however, for future programs, Deb would like to incorporate pottery with Jane Burke of Flying Cloud and a more sophisticated craft with Erika Crofut of the Norfolk Library.

The Library Commissioner has reported that State Aide Money has been deposited into the Town's account. Deb will inquire with the Town Accountant and have the money transferred into the Library's account for our use.

The bushes along the fence in the backyard are becoming overgrown. Nate Redmond has reached out to the Library and he will perform the task, at no cost to the Library.

Deb is currently working on the Town Report that is due before February 17th.

The Trustees have decided have a meeting on January 26th to discuss the FY24 budget. Deb will have the meeting posted on the Town Website.

Deb reported that the Town Accountant has made an error in accounts payable, specifically for the vendor, Midwest Tape, which would negatively impact our budget by approximately \$2,200. Deb will discuss with the Town Accountant in order to rectify the error.

Deb reported that the Friends of the Library will host their annual Valentine's Day chocolate fundraiser, "Sweets for Your Sweet" on Saturday, February 11th from 10:00AM until 2:00PM. Deb will reach out for volunteer chocolate makers.

The next meeting of the New Marlborough Town Library Trustees will be held on Thursday, February 16th at 10:00AM.

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carrie Liba