

New Marlborough Town Library - August 2023 Meeting of the Trustees

The meeting was called to order on Wednesday, August 9, 2023 at 4:00 PM with Debora O'Brien, Library Director, Tom Masters, Trustee and Carrie Liba, Chairperson present.

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

Deb opened the meeting by reporting that our first two art exhibitions have been successful. Shawn Fields work was displayed during the month of July and sales from that show generated \$420 in donations to the Friends of the Library. The library hosted an opening reception for Margaret Buchte on Sunday, August 6th from 2:00-3:00PM and two paintings have already been sold. Mrs. Buchte is also selling note cards and prints at the library.

Deb reported that she will be meeting with members of the Cultural Council on Thursday, August 10th, at which time she will request grants to cover the cost of the Library hosting half-day programs for the children of the New Marlborough Central School and for the annual Summer Reading program.

On Saturday, July 22nd, the Library, in partnership with the South Field Church, hosted a book discussion of Joseph Berger's latest biography of Elie Wiesel and it was deemed a success, with 74 people in attendance. The Library sold 14 books, which the Friends of the Library make 15% from the sale of each book.

Deb informed the Trustees that the Library's 2023 Annual Report is due to the Town by September 1st. It is the responsibility of the Chairperson to write and submit the report.

The Friends of the Library met on Saturday, August 5th and discussed their first annual book sale, to be held in the parking lot of the Library, on Saturday, September 30th from 10:00-3:00. The Library will be collecting books on Friday, September 29th from 10:00-6:00 and all volunteers will attempt to sort the books as they come in. The Friends will borrow tables from the Fire House and Deb and Kathy Palmer, President of the Friends, will approach the Select Board and request that the section of road between Clayton Mill River Road and Mill River Great Barrington Road, which runs the length of the Library parking lot, be closed for the event. Ormsbee's Garage has given their permission to close the road, and to utilize their parking lot, as they are closed on Saturday and it will not affect their business. The Friends will request for patrons to park at Town Hall and walk to the Library for the sale. The Friends will be charging \$2 per hardcover book, \$.50 per paperback, or \$10 to fill a tote bag or three paperback books for \$1.

The weekly toddler playgroup, hosted by Southern Berkshire Kids, was on hiatus for the summer, but will resume in-person activities on Wednesday, September 6th.

Local baker, Sarah Reynolds-North, of Found Bread, will be hosting an apple galette baking demonstration at the Library on Wednesday, September 13th at 6:00PM. The program can accommodate up to eight participants and is fully sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Deb reported that each of the Library's recurring programs are doing well: QiGong meets every Tuesday at 5:30; Cook Book Club meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 5:30; Chair Yoga meets every Thursday at 5:30, however, community participation and attendance has been lacking and Deb is considering cancelling; Knitting and Crafting meets every Friday from 5:30-7:30; and Book Group, meets one Saturday per month, dates selected by members at each meeting.

Deb reported that the Annual Report Information Survey (ARIS) has been filed as of Monday, August 7th. This report must be filed in order to comply with Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 78, whereby, each fiscal year, public libraries are required to submit this data in order to receive State Aid.

The next meeting of the New Marlborough Town Library Trustees will be held on Thursday, September 14th at 4:00PM.

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carrie Liba