



**Minutes, Regular Meeting
Babcock Library Board of Trustees
Babcock Library, 25 Pompey Hollow Road, Ashford, CT
10:00 a.m. Tuesday, January 23, 2024**

In attendance: Trustees Catherine Sampson, Sally Demars, Barbara Becker, Jean McCarthy, Pam Summers, and Library Director Ann Harper. Absent: Jean Lipker.

- I. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM
- II. Secretary's Report: Jean McCarthy moved, and Pam Summers seconded to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion carried.
- III. Treasurer's Report: Pam Summers reported that the bills have been paid. The new credit card is being used to purchase books and supplies and the Health Insurance is being auto paid.
- IV. Director's Report: Ann Harper, the library director reported –
 - a. She was a panelist at a program regarding book challenges and received a donation to the library of \$50.
 - b. A donation of \$100 was made to fund a staff event.
 - c. She assisted a visitor from the mid-west with genealogy research. The visitor made a \$20 donation to the library.
 - d. The budget has been submitted to the Selectmen. There is an increase of about \$10,000 over the current year due to an increase in the minimum wage and an increase in health insurance costs. For the current year, approximately 56% of the budget has been expended. The increase in minimum wage has affected payroll costs. Some of those costs can be recaptured during the summer when the library is closed on Saturday.
 - e. A full year of programming was planned at the Friends of the Library meeting. Many current activities will continue, the weekly kids' activities, book groups, and cooking club. A young adult book group and an al fresco book group will be added. Several one-time programs are planned, including jewelry making, seed exchange, a patron appreciation event, and a UFO program.
 - f. Chonte Fields reported that kids' programs have been planned through August, including "take a child to the library", "pint sized paint and sip", a Percy Jackson event, a Butterflies at the Library event, a Mother's Day craft, summer reading kick-off and an Ice cream social. A number of unusual stuffed animals have been donated to the library and an activity will be created using them.
- V. Old Business: There was no old business.
- VI. New Business:
 - a. The Friends of the Library will be funding a one-year subscription to "Linked in Learning for Libraries", an online resource for learning tech skills and other job skills.

- b. Jean asked about outreach to seniors. Ann reported that library staff members would be going to the Senior Center to help seniors with tech issues. If it proves to be popular it can be a regular occurrence. Ann is also looking into an outreach program for shut-ins. Folks would be connected to a library staff member who can help them find needed resources.

VII. Persons to be heard: There were no persons to be heard.

VIII. Correspondence: There was no correspondence.

IX. Friends Update: Sally Demars reported that \$500 will be spent on middle school programs. The puzzle sale is going well, and a check will be coming in from the wine tasting event.

XI. Items for Next Meeting: There were no items for the next meeting on February 27th.

XII. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Becker, Secretary