

Minutes of Gorham Public Library Trustees Meeting of September 22, 2015

Trustees Present:

Aaron Gorban, Gail Wigler, Clint Emmett, David Graham

Staff / Others Present:

Elizabeth Thompson, Director

The meeting was called to order by Chair Aaron Gorban at 6:00PM.

After review of the minutes of the meeting of August 25, 2015 a motion to accept the minutes was made by Aaron Gorban and seconded by Gail Wigler. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Copies of the financial reports were provided to all members.

Elizabeth gave a brief introduction. Last month was a tough one as two computers broke down at the same time and she was able to resolve the situation with minimal disruption. The old computers are costly to maintain. She purchased a "chrome box" which is virtually maintenance-free and people utilized the computer in the entry room as a backup. She commended staff on their handling of this situation.

Also, she received a notice from Denise Vallee that all employees working more than 130 hours a month must be offered health insurance. Connie falls into this category. Elizabeth discussed this with her and she would like to take the individual insurance which will cost the GPL \$ 7,330.52. The alternative would be to cut her hours. A brief discussion ensued and the consensus was that nobody wanted to cut the hours of a valued employee and that we would work to include this cost in our budget deliberations.

Gail & Elizabeth presented several reports which included the 2015 budget, 2015 expenditures to date, and a general outline of a projected budget for 2016. This was a continuation of our discussions last month and was an updated look at these matters.

Budget discussion continued on issues and options for 2016 budget including:

- ✓ Establishing a Capital Reserve Fund – we will probably need to come up some sort of general plan. Dave mentioned something similar he was involved in at the FRC and has some ideas.
- ✓ Maintenance budgeting. This is always tricky. Some years require more due to unexpected issues.
- ✓ Staff pay raises. Town is proposing 2%. We have discussed 2% & 3%. Discussion to continue.
- ✓ The possibility of increasing the 16 hour position to 20 hours. There are tradeoffs between increased services and our budget assessments and requirements such as health care, etc. Aaron noted that we need to be good stewards in our deliberations.

All agreed that the discussion was excellent and has led us to focus on several issues. We will "think about things" and discuss further next month. Elizabeth will forward the financial reports electronically for our review.

Director's Report:

Director Elizabeth Thompson reported on a number of items:

- ✓ Elizabeth reported that all grant possibilities for 2015 have been pursued. She will be looking at other possibilities for 2016.
- ✓ The children's room computer is up and running. There has been excellent feedback. The trustees viewed the new addition and were impressed.
- ✓ Elizabeth attended the CLiF Conference (Children's Literacy Foundation) in Vermont. She reported that this was excellent.
- ✓ We have received the Libby Foundation grant for \$ 1,400 worth of children's books. They are all currently on display and available for circulation.
- ✓ Ten people attended Marina Forbes' presentation on Russian dolls.

- ✓ The Gorham Public Library, Berlin Public Library, and White Mountains Community College are partnering to sponsor another Humanities Council event on “History of the Abenakis”. The lecture will be on September 23 at WMCC and a bead workshop will be given at GPL on September 26. The workshop is limited to 10.
- ✓ Coming up on September 30th, Ramblin’ Richard will present “Songs of World War II “. This is being co-sponsored by GPL with the Gorham Seniors activities coordinator.
- ✓ On October 14 Dave Govatski will present a session on “Alaska’s Inside Passage” at 7PM.
- ✓ Storyteller Rebecca Rule will present on October 30 at 7pm.
- ✓ The Children’s Storytime has been changed from Fridays to Wednesday’s due to a request by GCLC and the Ed Fenn. We have combined the Storytime with Who’s Who is Reading.
- ✓ Elizabeth will be attending a professional development conference in Hanover. This is part of a national program called “Lead the Change”. She is looking forward to this.
- ✓ The New England Library Association will be meeting in October. This will conclude her work on the Planning Committee.
- ✓ Elizabeth & Meg Rajala are in the process of becoming Certified Application Counselors (CACs). They will be able to help individuals interested in the health insurance marketplace. There are other CACs available in the area for collaboration if necessary.
- ✓ A genealogy class will be ending on September 30. This is led by volunteer Pam and has received considerable interest with 12 people participating. Elizabeth mentioned the possibility of a “Genealogy Club” in the future.

Other Business:

Former Trustee Paul Robitaille has requested time to speak at our next meeting about the history of the GPL. Paul was a Trustee for many years and was involved in the original move of the current building. Consensus was to invite Paul and have him speak as the first item on next month’s agenda, from 6PM to 6:30PM.

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 22, 2015 at 6:00PM. Please note change in the day of week.

A Motion to Adjourn passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:18PM.