

Old Forge Library

Board of Trustees

December meeting: December 14, 2023

Present: Dave Berkstesser, Judy Ehrensbeck, Kelly Hunkins, Mona Lincoln, Liz Lorentzen (via zoom), Linda Martin, Reed Proper, Joe Rintrona, Sarah Terpening (via zoom), and Linda Weal

Absent: Kate Bartlet and Kathy Rivet

Call to order: 5:35 PM by Kelly Hunkins

Approval of minutes from last meeting:

Motion made by Dave Berkstesser  
Seconded by Joe Rintrona  
Approved

Approval of treasurer's report:

Motion made by Linda Martin  
Seconded by Reed Proper  
Approved and entered into minutes

Director's Report:

- Working on a spring schedule.
- The 2023 Wish List has been put in the library with many donations already. Thank you to Sarah Bolton for putting the list together.
- Still working on Regional Read, *Braiding Sweetgrass*, for this spring.
- *The Bookmark* is about ready for publication and will be sent before the new year.
- The Friends have decorated the library for the holidays and the Christmas tree is in the gazebo.
- The website draft is ready for review and Sarah and Beth have been trained by Mid York in the calendar application.

Unfinished Business:

- We have received a donation of a new puzzle board for the library.
- We received a proposal from Collis and Sons in November for heating.
- The Buildings and Grounds committee met with NP Environmental company to discuss Geothermal heating.
- Jeanne Whyte has been hired to draw the plans for the new storage shed. We have paid \$1000 toward her \$3000 fee. We have received a bid from Dave Kleps with regard to the cost of construction.
- New plumbing, electrical and heating have been installed for the washer and dryer which should be delivered in the next few weeks.
- The plowing and shoveling have gone well with the little snow we've had to date.
- We received a Master planning proposal from HKK that is just under \$18,000.
- We are continuing to exceed our daily usage numbers for Hoopla. The Board agreed to up the monthly minimum and will budget for this increase in the coming year.
- Risley Electric is due to start their work in the coming weeks.
- We have been awarded the following grants:
  - \$5000 from J. M. McDonald Foundation for the stone path (requested \$15,000)
  - \$1000 Community Foundation Food Pantry Healthy Harvest
  - Wadas Gamechanger Grant—we will receive fishing poles, life vests, snowshoes and poles

New Business:

- On a motion brought forth by Dave Berkstresser, seconded by Linda Martin, the Board voted to exceed the tax cap for the 2024 budget year. The vote passed unanimously.
- Linda has been looking into a snow thrower to assist with the shoveling duties. The board approved the purchase of a rechargeable thrower for less than \$200.
- We have applied for the following grants:
  - \$2000-Community Foundation Health & Wellness for CPR classes
  - \$4000-Indium Corporation and the McCartney Family Foundation for food needs and senior gift project
  - \$4977-CNY Arts Community Art Program on behalf of the Friends for the Poetry and Art Contest
  - \$25,000-Herkimer County Grant Round@Community Foundation for all 2024 children's programs.
  - \$1700-CLRC Catalyst Grant Pre-Approval form for Earth Day program
  - NYSCA Capital Improvement Grant
  - Smart Growth Grant for Geothermal energy

Adjournment at 6:45 PM:

Motion made by Mona Lincoln  
Seconded by Dave Berkstresser  
Approved

Next meeting:

January 11, 2024 at 5:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Ehrensbeck  
Recording Secretary  
December 14, 2023