FINAL Trustees of Jonathan Bourne Public Library-5 December 2024-meeting minutes

A meeting of the Trustees was held on 5 December 2024 at the Jonathan Bourne Public Library and was called to order at 3:01 pm by K. FoxAlfano, chairperson.

Attendees: Kathy Fox Alfano (chairperson), Todd Benedict (vice chairperson), Kristina Prodouz, Perry Davis, Irja Finn, Library Director, Colleen Cunningham, Assistant Library Director, Nicholas Schiller, Public Services Librarian, Marilyn Tarallo, Friends of the Library, Jamie Perkins (Bourne Enterprise) and Susan Schmidt, (secretary). Absent: Amy Sharpe

Voting Items: A motion was made by T. Benedict, seconded by P. Davis to accept the minutes of the 24 October 2024 meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Discussion: Accessible parking spaces discussion with Tim Lydon had to be postponed until the November meeting.
T. Benedict shared that the Library Feasibility Study Committee has held three meetings since our last meeting. He said there is great harmony among the architects, the town and the committee. There are 100 returned surveys thus far after only one week. Please encourage people to get involved. Town meeting in May is the first step to pass. T. Benedict feels there is a lot of enthusiasm for the building feasibility study and its possibilities. The committee is trying to be upfront with the public about the physical plant and its current condition. It is important to inform the public about what is here. N. Schiller asked if there is information to compare our current costs to other local library costs. The concept is taking shape. I. Finn, K. Fox Alfano and T. Benedict went to a recent meeting for the Capital Outlay planning.

K. Prodouz brought up discussion of Marketing and Branding, saying they are learning great ways to reach out to the public from the Feasibility Study Committee. Liz Hartsgrove has done some of this work. There needs to be a budget for this and it seems that the town needs to improve its Marketing and Branding for much of the town, more than just the library. It appears we need better communication as a town and perhaps the town should consider a website manager to give the consistent structure needed for such communication. We wondered what funding sources may be available. M. Tarallo explained that the Friends have had roadblocks for some of their spending with the picnic tables, so they may not be able to help without town approval. I. Finn suggests choosing an advertising firm. We can research the costs and see if grant funding is available. P. Davis complimented the Bourne Enterprise for their weekly article about the library programming.

S. Schmidt reported that the 100 year celebration committee is moving forward. They will meet on December 11 at 4:00 pm to determine the steps to launch the story collection. She attended the Bourne Public Schools resource fair on November 7 with N. Schiller and Terry Johnson and there is a lot of enthusiasm for the project and the library in general. Bourne High has assigned an intern to T. Johnson for this project. The address for stories is 100years100stories@bournelibrary.org.

Director's report and staff reports: I. Finn and K. Prodouz both spoke of the progress made in FY25 and how much has been accomplished just partway through the fiscal year. There is still a problem in terms of accessibility of the library from the visit of the Disabilities Commission. In order to do any changes to the parking lot, there would need to be surveying done at a cost of $3000-$5000. With so much going on in terms of the feasibility study group, it seems wise to wait to see the direction there before investing that money. We will invite Tim Lydon to the next meeting. We will continue to chip away at the strategic plan.
C. Cunningham shared a number of upcoming programs that are posted on the library website, on Facebook and in the newspaper. The poetry group has decided to continue, meeting one time per month. Many other groups continue their programming here. She has attended the first meeting of the Massachusetts Library System Continuing Education Advisory Committee and is enthusiastic about participating.
N. Schiller reported that database use remains consistent, newsletter subscription is growing and the letters are being opened. Technical support continues well with more drop-ins than scheduled appointments. The Tuesday Tech Talks are working to solve group issues. In the next twelve months, we will need a new website vendor due to a retirement.

Friends of the JBPL-Anne Gregory will be taking over the presidency of the Friends and M. Tarallo will be the treasurer and a representative to our meetings if A. Gregory is not available. The plans are in place for Christmas in Old Bourne Village for tomorrow and Saturday.

Next meetings: January 23, 2025 at 3:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 4:22 pm by unanimous decision.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Schmidt, secretary