

Town of Kensington
Public Library Trustee Meeting
Tuesday, June 11, 2024*

Minutes

*Meeting was re-scheduled from June 13, 2024 due to a scheduling conflict

Present: Susie Gilbert, Director; Susan Bascom, Trustee and Chairperson; Matthew Dow, Trustee and Treasurer. Due to a pre-planned family vacation, Amanda Morrill, Trustee and Secretary, was absent.

Meeting called to order: 4:32 pm

May minutes were approved.

Statistics:

May 2024 statistics: Visits, physical circulation and total circulation all increased from previous month, and all increased from same time last year. ILI books borrowed decreased from last month, as there are no book clubs in June. ILI books loaned increased slightly. Museum pass usage stayed the same; Susie is considering adding Boston Aquarium, as they are revamping their library program and may allow pass usage during summer (previously denied). Streaming from Libby increased in all categories, while streaming from Hoopla decreased.

Quick Books budget report:

Payroll expenses up, largely due to KPL staff attending meetings re: library addition outside of regular hours. Programs costs up; but no costs for summer programs, as they're covered by Friends contribution (\$2000). Susie has asked about possibility of Town upgrading QuickBooks to multi-user license to save costs for library; she has not yet gotten a response.

Past Events:

May 18th Book & Bake Sale successful: book sales totaled \$442, baked goods sales totaled \$280. In addition, sales from Jane's tomato plants totaled >\$700, which will be used for summer programming.

May 22nd Kevin Gardner re: NE Stone Walls, in person; 21 attendees

June 1st The Raptors (Tailwinds Raptor Conservation and Education) on Library lawn; 41+ attendees

June 5th Jane Oneill – Seaside Escapes: The Art and Architecture of NE Coasts, via Zoom; 11 attendees

June 10th KES grades K-5 Field Day performer, Magic by George, very well received

Upcoming Events:

June 12th at 5:30pm Mary Kronenwetter re: Corbins Animal Farm, in person event

June 18th Summer Reading Program for all ages begins

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New Business:

Library is hosting the first "Thank you, Friends" tea Friday June 14th 9-10am

Susie and Kristin used the \$250 gift from Chris' Cards and Comics, Seabrook, to buy graphic novels and pokemon cards for summer reading prizes

Picnic table recently donated to KPL malfunctioned and was returned to Eagle Scout for repairs; upon its return, it will be inspected to ensure strength and durability is adequate for library patrons to use safely.

Internet & Phone services: Currently, free internet from Comcast but it is very slow (25-35 mbps); phone bill from Consolidated is \$117/mo, increasing to \$170 in November. Dana got quotes on combining services with increased internet (300 mbps) from both Comcast and Consolidated. Discussion re: feasibility of adding increased costs at this time (~\$800 for remainder of this year). Unanimous decision to keep services as is for now and ask for increased amount for this budget item in next year's budget.

Brief recaps of 4/13/24 NHLTA Regional Meeting in Greenland (Susan attended) and 6/5/24 NHLTA Spring Conference in Concord (Susie & Susan attended). Highlight of the conference was "Fundraising for Library Expansion/Construction," presented by J Palleiko, Newbury Public Library Trustee. Lots of useful information and very timely.

Ongoing Business:

KPL Personnel Policy finalized and approved. Matthew locked the document to protect it from inadvertent edits/changes.

Proposed addition:

5/20/24 Susie and Ron (architect) presented at Selectmen's Meeting re: estimate for addition (\$5.5 million); several Trustees, both Public & Social, also attended. Selectmen indicated they would likely support a warrant article if sufficient funds can be raised (\$2 million+) to reduce the cost to taxpayers. Susie sent meeting minutes to Trustees. Fundraising needs to start ASAP.

6/6/24 Meeting of Social Trustees, Public Trustees and Friends to brainstorm fundraising ideas. Many attended. Lots of discussion re: setting up system(s) to receive money and pledges, how to proceed with fundraising, resources to contact, creating workgroups, updating website, etc. Holly Hedeman, Social Trustee, is lead on fundraising for major gifts.

6/12/24 Susie has zoom meeting scheduled with State Assistant Librarian to discuss resources, get ideas

Next Meeting: August 8, 2024 at 4:30pm (in keeping with tradition, there will be no scheduled meeting in July)

Meeting adjourned at 5:48pm

Respectfully submitted by Susan Bascom

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