

Minutes of the Library Trustees Meeting  
Bushnell-Sage Library  
February 9, 2022  
via Zoom

Present: Pat Levine, Martin Mitsoff, Joan Powers, Deena Caswell, and Harold Hastings

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 by Pat. Last month's minutes were approved as written on a motion by Martin, seconded by Pat, with all in favor.

Deena presented her Director's Report (attached) for our consideration. It covered in detail the library activities for the month of January. Discussion followed around all points. In particular, training and planning for the Crossroads exhibit is in the early stages with many participants from throughout town organizations and other collaborative efforts such as the drive-through covid-testing clinic have been very successful.

Martin reported that he and Deena have begun talks with Berkshire OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) with an eye toward getting passes to help fund OLLI classes on a wide range of topics for our library patrons. The idea was enthusiastically supported by all present.

Martin also reported on an effort by the Select Board to gauge the interest of town residents regarding the possibility of a town-owned fiber optic network for internet access. A short survey will be available soon and Deena has agreed to library staff assisting patrons who request help accessing the survey online.

Harold reported for the Friends that they had a very good fundraising effort this year and regarding tax filing, Martin has offered to complete the forms for filing this year.

The next meeting will be March 9 at 8:30 am, zoom or in person to be decided later.

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 on a motion by Joan, seconded by Martin, with all in agreement.

**Bushnell-Sage Library**  
Director's Report for February 9, 2022

Winter is here!

We recently wrapped up our weekly drive-thru COVID testing in partnership with Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative. People were grateful to have the opportunity to test before/after traveling, the holidays, and during the omicron surge. The nurses appreciated having the library as a testing site. We will look for future ways to partner – one suggestion was for a drive-thru rabies testing clinic. It's a great way for us to build partnerships and find creative ways to connect Sheffield with health resources.

I took part in a recent virtual breakfast for Berkshire County librarians and legislators. There is a space opening on the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, and we were able to advocate for representation for western Massachusetts, and strongly encourage a selection from the Berkshires.

Trainings for the Smithsonian "Crossroads" exhibit have begun, and will continue on roughly a monthly basis. For the time being, they are virtual. I will continue to share meeting information with our planning group as appropriate. It's been great having people available to take part in the trainings – they are a big time commitment! The Sheffield planning group will meet virtually on Friday to discuss programming, promotion, and budget.

As mentioned in last month's report, we will be taking part in the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC)'s new program to support environmental monitoring for special collections. Our sensors have arrived and I am working with MBLC to get them online and reporting.

We have temporarily removed the StoryWalk from the back lawn – they were not holding up well in the icy weather. We will install the next book when the weather is a bit friendlier.

Our take-and-make craft for this month continues with our art education. This month Stef has put together a video tutorial for "mini modern canvases" – teaching kids about modern art and creating shapes with lines and angles.

We are in early talks with Mt. Everett about a potential teen volunteer program to launch in the fall that would also serve as a family homework help time, or assisting with children's afterschool programs.

Railroad Street Youth Project (RSYP) reached out to us looking for space for their weekly Q club to meet. Their previous location had enacted COVID restrictions that did not allow for in-person gatherings. The group will meet on Thursdays in the program room until further notice. We're excited to have a continued partnership with RSYP.

We've begun planning for summer reading. This year the state of Massachusetts will use the iRead program (a change from Collaborative Summer Reading Program previously

used). The theme will be "Read Beyond the Beaten Path." This summer camp theme is a great tie-in for us as we had looked to continue our use of outdoor space.

Stef and I are also discussing a shift for summer reading. Other libraries have discussed moving away from individual prizes to a community goal (e.g. Sheffield reads 500 books and the library gets a 3D printer). We're still in the early brainstorming stages.

Our annual report from the library director is due for the town's annual report on Friday. I'm excited to share all of our accomplishments and additions from 2021.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deena Caswell