

Minutes of the Library Trustees Meeting
Bushnell-Sage Library
May 12, 2022

Present: Pat Levine, Martin Mitsoff, Joan Powers, Deena Caswell and, and Sig Spiegel.

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Deena presented her Director's Report (attached) for our consideration. It covered in detail the library activities for the last month. Discussion followed on all points. It was decided that Deena would send that report to Rhonda and the Select Board to keep them in the loop.

Regarding staff evaluations, after looking at many examples Denna has decided on a more streamlined version with better organization. All areas are covered in a conversation between the staff member and Deena.

Deena's evaluation by the Board will be done collaboratively at the June meeting. Henceforth, the Director's evaluation will be done yearly each January.

Martin created a new privacy statement for the library covering what information the library has on patrons and how that information is safeguarded. This was accepted on a motion by Pat, seconded by Joan with all in agreement. The statement will be on the library's website and a short version will be posted in the library.

Regarding buildings and grounds, the library has a new janitorial staff person and the outdoor plantings are getting their spring cleaning seen to.

The next meeting will be June 9th at 8:30 am in the library. Joan made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Martin with all in agreement.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Powers
Clerk

Bushnell-Sage Library
Director's Report for May 12, 2022

The library assisted Sheffield Saves in applying for a MassDEP grant in support of the proposed repair café workshops they would like to run. As they were not considered an eligible organization to receive funding and the library is a potential host site for future cafes, we were happy to apply on their behalf. We received the fully authorized grant agreement on Monday and can begin spending the mini-grant funds. I am working with Jenny Russell and Stephanie Blumenthal on the financial parts of the project. Purchased items will be added to the Library of Things as appropriate.

Jen Atwood from Mass Humanities conducted a site visit on Friday, April 22 as she toured all six host sites chosen for the Massachusetts tour of the Smithsonian Crossroads: Change in Rural America exhibit. She agreed that the program room will be a great space to have the touring and local exhibits.

The most recent Crossroads training focused on soliciting feedback and measuring impact. Promotional materials will arrive soon. On May 6 and 7, Sheffield Land Trust used our program room to host a review of the Voices from the Field exhibit, which will be updated as the local exhibit for the 2023 tour. Calls are out for volunteers to serve on the art show committee with Pattie Owen as chair. The call for volunteers closes Friday, May 13.

On Saturday, April 23, we hosted Dylan Kubis, local photographer and first-time author, for a book signing. Dylan's photographs were a staff favorite when they were on our art wall, and his book is lovely. We had a great response from the community. His father Thad shared that they are almost sold out of their first print run. They donated a signed copy of the book to the library's collection.

We were the host site for the Sheffield Tree Project and Sheffield Land Trust's Earth Day/Arbor Day celebration on April 30. This busy event saw hundreds of seedlings given away, and the library property benefited from Tom Ingersoll's demonstrations on tree pruning and mulching. The vendors from the Farmers Market also did well. We look forward to refining the event for more success next year. With the invaluable assistance of Friends VP Sig Spiegel, we were able to bring the four trees needing rehoming outside in front of the library building. All four trees have found new homes! We're excited to use the open space to better showcase our Library of Things.

Mary Kershaw made a donation to the library in memory of her daughter, Heather Gunther. Based on Mary's recommendations of topics that were important to Heather, Stefanie selected books for young readers that we expect to be relevant and useful to our patrons for at least a decade. Books purchased will have a book plate in front recognizing the donation.

John Shannon visited recently to update and refresh public and staff computers. He also noted that he recently received donated PCs that he will be using to replace computers at the library and town hall in the near future.

We have been working closely with Rene Wood as we work to have the GRIT chair ready for Sheffield residents to check out. The chair is assembled and is currently stored in our atrium. Rene is working with the town attorney to make sure that we have the correct restrictions in place for liability concerns.

The Bushnell-Sage Library Book Club has returned. Circulation staff Lisa Bozzuto joins me to lead the discussion on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 5 p.m. Our first selection, *Bewilderment* by Richard Powers, had four people eagerly discussing climate change, technology, and mental health. The next book selection is *The Liar's Dictionary* by Eley Williams. Suggestions for future titles are always welcome.

Our May art wall has us dipping into our own collection! Photographer Fred H. Kiser's hand colored-in-oil artographs date from the 1920s and are a part of the library's private Eaton collection (a donation made in 1957). These are unique images featuring some of the flowers and scenery Mr. Kiser captured and embellished from Glacier National Park. Kiser was one of the official photographers for Portland's Lewis and Clark Exposition in 1905.

Our May youth art wall features the work of Abigail Markham. We hosted her artist's reception on Friday, May 6. Our StoryWalk for May is *Clap Your Hands* by Lorinda Bryan Cauley.

We hosted Nanci Worthington for another program on nature journaling on Saturday, May 7. Nanci will visit us again in the summer and fall thanks to a Sheffield Cultural Council grant. We'll also welcome back Jane Burke for a STEAM workshop on June 3.

Summer reading will kick off Saturday, June 25 with a visit from author Alec Carvlin. He'll read his debut picture book *How to Bake a Universe* and join us in fun crafts. The theme of "Read Beyond the Beaten Path" gives us a lot of opportunities for family-friendly outdoor programs.

I recently took part in an HR series on employment law offered by Massachusetts Library System, and a webinar on practical disaster resource planning through the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. Melissa has continued with her readers' advisory webinars, most recently on the western genre.

Respectfully submitted,
Deena Caswell