

**Fort Edward Free Library
Board Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2023**

Attendance: James Donahue, John Godfrey, Mary Ellen Fisher, Kate Hunsdon-Stannard, Morgan Clark

Staff: Vicki Plude

Guest: Sara Dallas

Welcome

A meeting was called to order by James Donahue at 7:00 p.m. In person and Google Meet. Minutes of the September 13th meeting were unanimously approved. (M.E. Fisher, J. Godfrey).

Financial Report:

- Bills were paid and accounts were balanced through the end of September 30, 2023.
- Checkbook reconciled as of September 30, 2023.
- Reviewed monthly expenses and income.
- Reviewed the budget report through the 3rd quarter.
- Quarterly report was sent to Eric Smatko.
- Waiting for town funds.
- School funds came in September.

Librarian's Report:

- Report of items, patrons, circulation, new items, Wi-Fi usage, and interlibrary loans for September.
- Book club met in September with 4 in attendance.
- E-gaming met in September with 9 in attendance.
- Vicki held two programs that had 12 in attendance each
- Installed the new Meraki.
- Roto Rooter fixed the plumbing issues.
- Dumpster was picked up and returned the tax \$ previously charged.

Correspondence:

- None.

Unfinished Business:

- Church- Russell Howard said to email deed and address to get quote.
- Book Sale- some volunteers came yesterday. Will have more Thursday morning. Will be held Friday-Tuesday. Will make a Facebook Event to draw more people.
- Seat Number change- James and Kate will meet up to have notarized.
- Blue Mountain Lake-James will reach out to Paul.
- John Webber- will reach out to set up research program.

New Business:

- Vicki would like to do a 50/50 raffle at the book sale.
- Looking at removing a tree out front.
- Paul McCarty will be hosting a program on 11/2 "The 1949 Village Centennial" at 6:45 p.m. Will post on Facebook.

- The school is hosting the circus. Vicki would like to sell tickets at the library and raffle 4 free ones.
- The insurance company came and measure the building and looked around. Fire extinguishers are up to date.
- Security system. Went off at 1 a.m. one morning. false alarm.
- The library was power washed.
- The front storm door needs a new handle.
- The shed is leaking- will have Scott look.
- Water bill is in- need to check pipes.
- Will order filters for the furnace.
- James would like to host an Ecology day- will clean up the village and host an event after.

A few words from Sara Dallas:

- praised Vicki and her work
- Thanked the board for all they do
- SALS- a cooperative system that supports 4 counties
- provides grants, delivery, consulting, answers and concerns
- the library's monthly check goes to the Joint Automation project (JA), which provides 6 full time IT assistants to be on-call 24/7
- the 2024 JA fee will be lower than 2023
- Went over the regulation changes for trustees
- Announced the annual meeting at Fort William Henry
- Can attend online
- Book Challenges:
 - the library may want to join Unite Against Book Bans
 - the library should want to continue to have something for everyone
 - book choices are an individual decision
 - all individuals have a right to read, not to be controlled by the community
 - if someone has an issue with a book, the director will listen and offer a reconsideration form
 - need to review the collection development policy
 - those who challenge a book should be an actual member of the community
 - a title can be challenged once every 5 years
 - treat all challenges the same
 - practice what we will say beforehand
 - if approached outside of the library, we will tell them to speak with the director
 - if a book is being challenged, make sure to read it
 - all bylaws and policies should be reviewed, and SALS will review to help ensure things won't be taken out of context
 - the library has the right to kick out abusive patrons.

A motion to adjourn at 7:58 p.m. was unanimously approved (J. Godfrey, M. Clark)
 Draft submitted by Kate Hunsdon-Stannard, Secretary.