

Joseph H Plumb Memorial Library
Meeting Minutes for September 14, 2023

Attendance: Kelley Medeiros (chair), Shauna Makuch (co-chair), Mike King (treasurer), Heather Alford, Kristen Cardoso (Library Director). Present on Zoom: Kimberly Burt

Meeting called to order 6:28 pm

Motion to approve meeting minutes from July 11, 2023 meeting made by Mike, seconded by Shauna. Motion was approved.

Next meeting: September 28, 2023 - 6:30pm. Location TBD.

Correspondence: Board Chair and Co-chair read aloud several letters/emails for and against the flag removal from the Little Free Diverse Library (LFDL) and content. Chair also read a request submitted by Rochester resident Jeffrey M Costa in inquiring about the steps to take to install (2) two additional library structures on library grounds.

Public Comment: There were several comments from the public, both for and against, regarding the LFDL currently installed on library grounds and the removal of the flag from the LFDL. All community members were given two minutes to speak, with the expectation the public comment session would not last longer than one half hour, as directed by the Board Chairperson.

A motion to close public comment was made by Shauna and seconded by Heather. Public comment was closed at 7:16pm.

OLD BUSINESS

- Director's Report - see attached report for full details. There were no questions on the report, pleased with the turnout of the summer reading program. Cabinet doors are in progress. The Concrete platform was poured for the downstairs heating system. The ARIS report was submitted on August 16th. The financial report is still in process.

NEW BUSINESS

- Discussion surrounding the need for a flag policy specifically for the library. Provided the town's new flag policy and the consideration on the table is we also adopt this policy for the library given the guidance provided by Town Counsel regarding the Shurtleff v Boston decision. Vote scheduled for the next meeting.
- Discussion of gift policy in regards to the steps taken when the LFDL was voted on at the January 2021 board meeting. Gift policy will be provided electronically to everyone for review and prepare for a vote at the next meeting unless any edits/modifications are suggested.
- Discussion regarding what stipulations, if any, were attached to the gift of LFDL from Tri-Town Against Racism (TTAR). There were no stipulations/agreements in the voting

record of the relevant meeting minutes as agreed to by the Trustees in regards to the gift and installation of the LFDL. It was presented by the Chair that there be a vote at the next meeting to determine adherence to the gift policy and potential return to TTAR.

- Massachusetts law and Town Counsel support that Trustees of the library are responsible for library grounds including gifts that become permanent structures, including content oversight.
- Legal precedence that permanent structures on town property become a donation, thus the town/library is responsible for management.
- As of the May Town Meeting, the library was officially separated from the Town, except with regards to the budget, which still requires approval from the town's Finance Committee, and the expectation is the Board is responsible for grounds and staff.
- Trustees support TTAR's mission and DEI initiatives. The library's purpose is to provide content for all.
- Concerns shared on duplication of the staff responsibilities of managing content in the LFDL and library itself if the LFDL adheres to the gift policy.

No subcommittee updates provided at this meeting.

Motion was made by Heather to adjourn at 7:52pm. Seconded by Shauna. Motion was approved.

Submitted by Kimberly Burt, Secretary