South New Berlin Free Library

Quarterly Public Meeting

April 25, 2023

Board Members Present:  Scott Stensland, Elaine Clum, Tom Bryden, Robert Decker, Kathie Burnside, Carrie Lewis

Absent: Laura Riddle

Staff Present: Robin Avolio

Public Present: JoAnn Smith, Clayton Welch, Wendy Oldham

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by President Scott Stensland.

The agenda was reviewed and adopted.

Wendy Oldham, the Town of New Berlin Historian, asked for permission to move a headstone for Mary Etta Bailey from the museum above the library to the Riverside Cemetery. Motion to approve by Elaine Clum, second by Carrie Lewis. Passed.

Clayton Welch asked us to consider reprinting the local history book – Ye Old Crandallstown and said he’s willing to fund a portion of it. He will contact Sharon Donahee who is on the White Store Board for help getting a cost estimate and more information. Motion to pursue this by Bob Decker, second by Tom Bryden. Passed.

Jo Ann Smith, an insurance agent from Gates Cole Insurance, gave us an update on our insurance policies. We have a policy through Preferred Mutual which includes coverages of $160,000 on the building, $50,000 on the contents, $500,000 liability, and $50,000 medical expense payments. She recommends we increase coverages and will measure the building including the new addition and get back to us with figures. We also have a policy with Philadelphia for $840 per year which covers directors, officers, and board members for $1 million dollars. She feels that’s enough coverage. She recommended an inventory of the artifacts in the museum. Robin mentioned this is in progress.

The minutes from the February 22, 2023 meeting were approved. Motion by Tom Bryden, second by Elaine Clum. Passed.

The following bills were approved.

Junior Library Guild Fees – motion by Tom, second by Carrie Lewis. Passed.

Mileage for Staff Members Nancy Dibbell and Michelle Abrams who attended a book repair workshop. Motion by Carrie, second by Tom. Passed.

Robin gave her Director’s report. It included her expenditures, income from petty cash and purchases, the annual report to the community, the purchase of new flags for outside, a $5,000 grant from Willow to do workshops by Bonnie Gale. Robin stated that one of the PC’s isn’t working but doesn’t need to be replaced due to decreased usage. The security camera on the front porch has failed. Motion by Bob Decker, second by Elaine and passed to pre-approve $50.00 for the purchase of a new one.

Robin shared information on upcoming events: movie nights, Saturday story times, 2nd Tuesday Book Club, Willow Workshops, and the Summer Reading Program.

Motion to accept her report by Elaine Clum, second by Tom Bryden. Passed.

Donations to the building total $34,657.

The fundraising committee will be meeting May 2, 2023. The library has received $35,000 from the R.C. Smith Foundation and still needs to raise $65,000.

Scott and Carrie agreed to look over artwork and books given to the library to see if we can use them.

The addition construction is moving along.

There was no old business.

New business.

Robin will send a link to all for the trustee education training we need to take.

She needs a new office chair and would like to sell the old one. Motion by Elaine, second by Tom to approve up to $200 to purchase a new one.

Robin is working on modifying the sign outside to make it easier to move in and out of the library.

Kathie Burnside read the board proposition as it will appear on the official voting ballot for the school budget vote on May 16, 2023. Bob Decker agreed to attend the budget hearing on May 9 to answer any questions the public might have about our library. We discussed asking for a percentage increase for the board proposition another year instead of a dollar amount. No decision made.

We’re still working on the type of memorial benches for outside with plaques on them. No decision made.

We will hold a quarterly meeting July 18, 2023 at 5:30 pm and discuss insurance upgrades then.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm. Motion by Tom, second by Elaine. Passed.

Submitted by

Kathie Burnside

Secretary