

Alice M. Ward Library Minutes for May 1, 2024

The meeting was opened by Nancy Pietro at 4:00.

Members present: Nancy, Shellie, Gana, Cindy, Ron, and Kathy

Members not present: Sharon Belleville

The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted unanimously without any changes. Shellie motioned and Gana seconded.

There were several additions to the agenda:

1. Cindy brought up the new childcare Contribution Tax that has gone into affect in Vermont. It states that all Vermont employers must pay a tax for every employee they have. Zack Brown had mentioned this to Cindy. It sounds like the town plans to pay this tax for us and that it will not be an issue for us.
2. MERP revision request was brought up by Cindy. They can add air/ceiling/garage door (moot point)/ and basement insulation. Shellie said that she would talk with Zach about this and find out what the next steps are.
3. WIX costs have gone up since last year. We paid \$264 in 2023 and it has gone up to \$348. Cindy wondered if we needed to keep it. She will look into it and get back to us. *In an email on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, Cindy told the trustees that we did need to keep it since it was what we use to update our website.*

Electricity costs were brought up as the most pressing building and maintenance concerns. The bills have gotten higher and higher. A technician from VT Electric came out and he will come again if need be. Cindy will call. Norm Flanagan found a blower that had been running non-stop. Maybe this is the root cause?

The board decided to raise our electrical budget for next year since we are already through more than half of what we budgeted for this year. We received \$500 from the town. We decided to use it to put toward our electrical costs. Shellie motioned and Gana seconded. In addition, we are all caught on our bills.

The new grants policy was reviewed and added to the binder.

Cindy stated that the Tiny Art Show will be set up on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The show itself will be from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup>. Because this is such a busy time of year, we thought maybe doing the tiny art show during the winter might work better for next year.

Ongoing projects include the Carriage House. We are hoping that we will have enough money to make this dream a reality.

In other business, Al Buckley would like to put a piece of fencing and pictures up near the library sign to let folks know what could be coming if a grant comes through. The board agreed that this was okay.

Cindy will order a floor mat from LLBean to help protect the rug inside the door.

Shellie motioned to adjourn at 5:23 and Gana seconded. Meeting was adjourned shortly thereafter.