

Griswold Memorial Library Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2024 at 6:00 pm by Zoom

I. Opening

- a. Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm.
Roll call: Nancy, Betty, Betsy, Chelsea, Marty, Cheli, Elaine Stanley
Regrets: Mikaela
- b. Land acknowledgement
- c. Team agreements

II. Approval of Meeting Agenda

Nancy requests a change in order of the agenda: to move to the beginning, discussion of the plaster busts; and to add discussion about the land acknowledgement. Betty moved we approve the agenda as amended. Betsy seconded. Agenda approved.

III. Ongoing business – Plaster busts

Elaine Stanley requested to speak about the plaster busts. Her remarks included: she is an eighth generation Colrain native, who grew up in the center and went to the library all the time and grew up seeing the busts; the busts were made around 1900, are valuable, and were gifted to the town in 1961; the Reed sisters were the librarians at the time; the busts were displayed on a float for the bicentennial parade; the busts belong in the library and should stay there; the busts inspire kids to learn; she is against their removal.

Chelsea noted that the year the busts were gifted to the library is uncertain, but earlier than 1961, as the busts were listed on library inventory in 1953. The Council on Aging expressed interest in the busts, but the Council cannot take responsibility for them yet. The group is hoping to have a senior center at the school, but that is in a feasibility study phase right now.

<Elaine left the meeting>

Currently several courses of actions are being discussed: keep the busts, auction them, give them to the Council on Aging (with or without library ownership), and find other places for them. Marty mentioned the Lodge of Masons in Shelburne Falls may be interested in Washington.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Betty moved we approve December 2023 minutes. Betsy seconded.
December 2023 minutes approved.

V. Reports

- a. Director's Report
Of note and additions to written report: Two episodes of the "People's

History of Colrain” podcast has been uploaded; the Carol Purington Poetry Collective is lovely as always; the GML received \$1400 from the LCC for programs, including Earth Day, Apess Day, Summer Reading program, Fix-It Day, and the StoryWalk®; working on a yoga story hour once a month; Betsy and Jill are interested in doing a social hour at the same time as tech help starting in March; everything is shut down at the Franklin County Jail and a new contact there is working on how to get things started again; the survey tool is going out in the mailer; a site visit for the feasibility study is postponed until January 17.

Budget highlights: burned through Magic Wings pass and getting another one; estimate from the plumber for an electric box for the water heater is \$970; there is money in maintenance budget for it; Chelsea would like to move ahead with this because hot water is important for washing hands.

Betty moved we accept the Director’s Report as written and reported. Betsy seconded. Director’s Report accepted.

b. Treasurer’s Report

Betty hasn’t gotten anything from the town accountant since mid-December. Betsy moved we accept the Treasurer’s Report. Cheli seconded. Treasurer’s Report accepted.

c. Cornerstone Committee Report

A site visit is mandatory for anyone who wants to bid on the project, and that will happen on January 17.

The RFQ can be found at this link:

<https://frcog.org/event/rfq-2023-2112-colrain-griswold-memorial-library-building-and-site-improvements-feasibility-study/>

VI. New Business

a. Land acknowledgement

Nancy suggested we revisit and possibly shorten the Land Acknowledgement, and maybe the Governance Committee could come up with a revision. Marty spoke up in support of keeping it the way it is, noting the depth of it is part of its value. Betsy also supported keeping it the way it is. Discussion will continue at another meeting.

b. FY2025 Budget

Reviewed working budget for FY25. There is a 3% COLA. Chelsea is restructuring the staff and is creating a new position for Assistant Library Director, which will be 10 hours a week with more responsibilities than other staff and help with communications. There is 311 hours a year for library assistants on the budget. Operations are staying consistent from last year. The programming budget is bumped to \$1,000. The next step is to present it to Kevin and then the Finance Committee.

Betty moved we present the adjusted budget to the Finance Committee. Betsy seconded. Motion approved.

VII. Adjournment

Betty made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Betsy seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, February 12, at 6:00 pm via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by Cheli Mennella