

Willoughby Wallace Memorial Library

Committee Meeting

February 10, 2021

Via zoom

The meeting was called to order by John Malick at 7:06. Also attending: Robert Dargan, Erin McCarthy, Jo Buchanan, John Nelson and Library Director Alice Pentz.

Public comment: None

Minutes of the November 18, 2020 were approved. Nelson, McCarthy.

Financial report: The balance of the WWML Committee fund is \$140,743.89.

Library Director Report: Programming for children includes Wednesday pick up packs, online Wednesday bedtime stories, Friday morning storytime online and winter reading challenge. Programming for adults includes two presentations by Branford resident Tom Laurenson: Scottish Fire festivals and the Story of Golf. More upcoming programs on Rt. 146, European river travel. Passports are being processed again. The library Instagram account wwmlibrary now has 245 followers and continues to post historic gems from the library's local history collection.

The library website is in the process of being updated. There is a new page for Children and Teens. The Local History Collection is new under the Resources page. Both areas will be developing more content. The library now has a YouTube channel on the website to share videos of past programs.

Currently there is a new Art Exhibit in the Keyes Gallery of local Connecticut Artists from Feb-March 31. The theme is HOPE.

With funding from the Seedlings Foundation the library is now offering access to the downloadable service HOOPLA for library patrons. We will be monitoring the cost as this is a pay per use service.

The library staff has been evaluating the library areas for post pandemic usage. Going forward we plan to offer more mobile computer services with laptops and wireless printing to promote more social distancing in the library. We are requesting funds from the WWML Committee to use for purchasing laptops, chrome books, a charging station and a printer. This will be on the April 14 agenda. The estimated cost for two laptops and a printer is \$2000.00. The Friends of WWML have agreed to pay new furnishing that allow patrons to work in other areas of the library. When the library reopens for computer use there will be a desktop workstation with adaptive technology.

There was a discussion of continuing to offer online access, along with in person, to programs in the post pandemic time to offer more equitable access to events.

The library budget has been submitted to the First Selectman and the Finance Director for FY2022.

There was discussion of a request proposed by a resident to use the Keyes gallery for exhibits other than art exhibits. The room policy review and possibly revision will be on the April 14 agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm. Buchanan. Nelson.