

**KIMBALL LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 12, 2024**

ATTENDANCE:

Jill Ottow, Chair	Linda Jette, Alternate Trustee
Karen Moss, Vice Chair	Karen Brown, Director
Marnie Finn, Treasurer	
Karen Trasatti, Secretary	
Pam Borisko, Trustee	

Call to Order: 3:48pm

SECRETARY REPORT:

- February 14, 2024 regular meeting minutes

**Motion by Marnie, seconded by Pam to accept the regular meeting minutes of 2/14/24.
5 Yes, 0 No. Motion passed.**

TREASURER REPORT:

- Marnie discussed the library's low interest savings account with TA John Apple and Town Treasurer, Michael Tirrell, and will explore options that yield higher interest.

General Account:	\$ 23,425.12
(Includes Ruth Campbell 2713.30 & -901.55 copy)	
Fines Account:	\$ 2,400.54
Savings Account:	\$ 13,659.12
(Includes Elizabeth Smith 8,234.15)	
Passports:	27
Donations:	0

**Motion by Jill, seconded by Karen Moss to accept Treasurer report for February.
5 Yes, 0 No. Motion passed.**

DIRECTOR REPORT:

- Trustees were provided with the expense report for February. Budget numbers will be entered sometime after today's election and before our April meeting. If the 2024 town operating budget fails, the default budget will be \$44,616 less than the budget submitted last fall.
- February stats: 2,961 visits, 4,897 items borrowed, 111 programs, 1649 participants. Proquest database use up 71% since it launched in January.
- George Family Charities will again generously support summer reading concerts.
- Many adult and children's programs were hosted during February. Check the library website for a list of upcoming events.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 2022 Survey: Trustees were provided with the 2022 survey results which included patron comments. It was suggested the new elect Trustees also be provided this information.
- Printing & Copier Fees: Director Brown, Kathy Watson and Marnie met to discuss printer and copier fees. Paper and toner costs have increased. Recommendation is to increase cost from .10 to .15 per side (black/white), color copy fee will remain at .50 per side.

Motion by Jill, seconded by Pam to increase black/white copy fee to .15 per side effective 4/1/24. 5 Yes, 0 No. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Atkinson Days: Events happening around Dow Common and Woodlock Park on 9/7/24. Friends of the Library have been asked to support an event but if declined, Director Brown asked if the library would fund an event with Elizabeth Smith funds.

Motion by Marnie, seconded by Pam for the Trustees to be prepared to fund an event for Atkinson Days from the Elizabeth Smith Fund if Friends of the Library do not fund. 5 Yes, 0 No. Motion passed.

- Trustee Orientation: Trustees found the orientation useful so it will continue for the new Trustees elected today.
- NH Library Trustee Annual Conference will be held on 6/5/24 in Concord..
- Director Performance Review: Director review usually takes place in March. Town attorney is reviewing the existing employment contract and will update the new contract. The Town Attorney suggested a contract extension to June 30, 2024 while the contract is being reviewed.

Motion by Karen M, seconded by Jill to extend Karen Brown's employment contract per the town attorney suggestion in an effort to update the contract. 5 Yes, 0 No. Motion passed.

- March Workshop: Meeting time/date TBA to discuss the Town budget, COLA costs and the possibility of default budget cuts..
- Launch of Summer Reading Program: Trustees usually fund the summer reading opening and closing events from the Elizabeth Smith Fund. Request to hire Magic Fred on 6/18/24 at a cost of \$675.00.

Motion by Marnie, seconded by Pam to fund the Magic Fred show for the summer reading program at a cost of \$675.00 from the Elizabeth Smith Fund. 5 Yes, 0 No. Motion passed.

- Karen Trasatti read a statement she prepared for her final meeting as a 2 term Kimball Library Trustee. Statement attached.

Next Trustee meeting: Tuesday, April 9, 2024, 3:45pm.

Meeting adjourned: 4:27pm

Respectfully submitted by,
Karen Trasatti, Secretary

Today is my last meeting as a 2 term Kimball Library Trustee. During my 6 year tenure, I have learned more than I ever imagined about public libraries, RSAs, budgeting, policies and so much more.

I want to thank the residents of Atkinson for trusting me to serve in this position since 2018. I can assure you the library is a very healthy and vibrant part of our community and it is adequately funded.

I take pride in always being prepared and engaged for meetings and discussions. I always had the best interest of the library and the residents who elected me and made a conscious effort to have an unbiased, open mind to every topic. In addition, I always had the taxpayer's interest in mind and I think it safe to say I was a fiscally conservative member of this board.

I strongly believe a difference of opinion is healthy for any board and encourages good discussion and dialogue but find it difficult to express in this current board. My opinion of and questioning of topics was often seen as a negative. On several occasions, I was singled out and questioned by the former Chairperson, Tom Kelley, and others as to my allegiance, advocacy and support of the Library.

To quote Chairperson Ottow in a recent email to this board "The Library is best served when we present a unified voice in the community." I take personal offense to the actions of the current and former Chairpersons for writing editorials to local newspapers criticizing my vote against the library budget and labeling me as "uninformed" and "elitist". As a volunteer, I have given hundreds of hours to this position and to be criticized like this displays poor leadership and is extremely unprofessional.

I would like to set the record straight. I have always been and will continue to be a huge supporter of this library. I've lived in Atkinson since 2004 and our 3 children grew up visiting this library weekly and it was an important part of their childhoods. We attended countless children's programs, a family favorite being the Jackfrost Jamboree, as well as adult programs, my personal favorite being Cookbook Club so to have my allegiance questioned and criticized is absurd.

It IS possible to be an advocate for the library but also challenge and question all while trying to learn and understand the topics at hand in order to make informed decisions. I strive for transparency, accountability and honesty in all that I do. I believe in continuous improvement to ensure we get the best value for taxpayer funds.

I wish the newly elected Trustees much success and I look forward to the Kimball Library continuing to thrive in the future. Thank you.