

Northwood Libraries Board of Trustees
Work Session
Monday, October 30, 2023

APPROVED

Attending: Pat Vaillancourt, Treasurer; Janet Story Clark, Secretary/Acting Chair; Irene Kreider, alternate; Karen Reilly, alternate; and Margaret Walker, alternate; Donna Bunker, Director.

The session was called to order at 1:05 PM by Janet Story Clark, serving as Acting Chair in the absence of Betty Smith who was absent due to illness.

Library budget – The library budget will be discussed with the Board of Selectmen on November 8, 2023 at 7:15 PM. The Trustees will meet at Town Hall at 7 PM so that we will all be present at the appointed time.

After discussion, the Board agreed that our presentation would focus on the following points:

1. Our New Mission Statement
2. The percentage increase in our budget for 2024 is lower than many other department requests and the library budget is only about 2 percent of the total town budget.
3. Much of the increase in our budget is due to budget items that we have no control over.
4. The services and programs of the library are available to all Northwood residents free of charge.
5. AND we need to be able to attract and keep qualified staff by providing a living wage and benefits

Other strengths to include are:

- Programs co-sponsored with the Recreation Department;
- Weekly meetings for seniors at the Senior Café;
- Collection box for retired US flags with the VFW
- Programs for kids and adults

Bryant Library in the Narrows is a Town asset that needs to be maintained and needs some attention. Our observations were forwarded to the Town Administrator.

MOU with Northwood Historical Society (NHS) – We next performed the annual review of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Library Trustees and NHS. A completed copy of the updated MOU will be forwarded to Sandy Priollo of NHS before we meet with NHS at our November 10, 2023 meeting.

First Amendment Audits – We briefly discussed our meeting with the NH State Librarian at our October meeting. We will invite Northwood Police Chief Drolet to our December meeting to discuss the issue of strangers, videos and our young patrons.

Minutes Retention – This subject will have to be taken up at a later date.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 3:04 PM.

Recorded by Janet Story Clark