

**James E. Nichols Memorial Library
Board of Trustees Meeting**

October 8, 2021

-Amended & Approved 10/25/21-

Minutes

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 1:28pm. Present: Chairperson Annette Nichols, Treasurer Sarah Heath, Bette Miller, Karen Ponton, Shannon Whalen (until 2:47pm), A. Xavier (Alternate, voting after 2:47pm); Karin Karagozian, Trustee Emeritus; Lois Brady, Interim Director; Margaret Adams, Assistant Librarian; Member of the Public: George Gurney, resident.

- I. Priority Business-Trustee Resignation(s):** Trustees A. Nichols and S. Heath submitted their resignations at this meeting. A. Nichols identified her frustration with being forced into damage control as opposed to moving forward with Library business with a deeply divided Board. S. Heath identified that she has served as a trustee since 1995, but in her opinion there has been constant strife at each meeting over the past year making it impossible to serve. Both Trustees felt the Board would be better served if K. Ponton stepped down. K. Ponton declined to resign. Individual Trustees spoke of their own concerns about the disagreement, division and conflict that has been occurring over the past 6 months. K. Karagozian shared her thoughts throughout the discussion from her perspective as Trustee Emeritus with 15 years of service on this Library Board. She reminded the Board that every one of the Trustees loves Nichols Library and wants to help it succeed. M. Adams said the Board does not realize that L. Brady is a great librarian. G. Gurney praised L. Brady for how she treats patrons. K. Karagozian encouraged the Trustees to consider a way to move forward that would be in the best interest of the Library. The resignations were withdrawn. Consensus of the Board was that it is better to stay together and continue to try and work through its issues. K. Karagozian was asked and agreed to serve as facilitator at the next Board meeting.

II. Review/Approval of Minutes

- A. **August 23, 2021 Minutes:** Postponed to next meeting.
B. **August 30, 2021 Minutes:** Postponed to next meeting.
C. **September 27, 2021 Minutes:** Postponed to next meeting.

III. Ongoing Business

- A. **Treasurer's Report - Acceptance of Unanticipated Revenue per RSA 202-A:4-c, ARPA Subgrant of \$1,120.00:** Motion by K. Ponton, seconded by A. Xavier: To accept the ARPA subgrant of \$1,120.00. Passed unanimously.

- B. **Report from the Library: Adel-XT Quotation Discussion:** Postponed to next meeting.

C. Committee Reports

1. **Building Survey & Design:** There was no committee update. B. Miller said she had information from Emma Stratton, Executive Director of the American Independence Museum in Exeter, NH, regarding the Library foundation.
2. **Policy Committee:** Update postponed.
3. **Librarian/Library Director Search Update:** Two (2) interviews are scheduled for Wednesday, October 13, 2021. L. Brady asked that she be notified by October 25, 2021 if she is to continue or should make other plans.

IV. New Business

- A. **Library Keys:** Postponed.
B. **Trustees Meeting with Interim Director:** Postponed.

V. Non-public Session - Staff 6-month Review: Postponed.

VI. Other Business

- A. **Next Monthly Meeting:** Monday, October 25, 10:00am, Place TBA.
B. **Interim Meeting(s):** Consensus of the Board was to meet Monday, October 18th at 6:00pm at the Library. A. Nichols will check on S. Whalen's availability.

Adjournment: Motion by B. Miller, seconded by S. Heath to adjourn at 3:17pm. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Ponton, Secretary