

Griffin Free Public Library
Where Auburn Comes Together
To Discover, Create, Connect and Succeed!
Board of Trustees Meeting
November 27th 2023, at 7PM

Present: Nancy Mayland, Chair; Marilyn Cavanaugh, Treasurer; Liz Michaud, Secretary; Cindy Berling, Alternate Trustee; Andrea Galasso, Alternate Trustee; Dan Szczesny, Library Director, Kathy Perrin, Brenda Beer, Fay Hanscomb, Peggy Neveu

Nancy Mayland called the meeting to order at 7:02pm

Expansion Meeting:

- The Board of Selectmen will not recommend the warrant but will allow the warrant to go to vote.
- The Fundraising Consultant has resigned.
- The Chairs of the Expansion Committee, Amanda Martinelli & Allison Rickenbach , have resigned.
- A discussion was held about the grants that are in the works.
- The CRM, Little Green Light is paid for 1 year and we need to get someone to manage the site and get the admin rights. Peggy has offered to take over the Admin of this application.
- Expansion Facebook Page – it’s a nice facebook page but if we continue to use it, we need to market it.
- Nancy & Dan spoke with Chris Sterndale as he has fundraised before, he asked if we’ve done a feasibility study. This would tell us how much we could possibly raise.
- Marilyn suggested it would be a mistake to go forward with the warrant without the recommendation of the BOS.
 - Marilyn proposed a warrant for a capital campaign for the library for a specific dollar amount, perhaps \$300K. It would only take 50% to pass, it would put the idea in front of the town, and we can continue to fundraise. It could be a plan that’s good for both the library and the town. We will need to meet with the BOS to ask for their support and recommendations. Then a year from now we would have fundraised a good amount and a plan that the BOS could recommend.
 - Brenda asked Keith Leclair about this same thing kind of proposal, the town would have to vote to fund.
 - We need to work hard over the next year and we need to re-engage with the younger people in town like Allison Rickenbach and Amanda Martinelli.
 - We will need to meet with the BOS and the Architect and talk about a new plan.
- A discussion was held about last weeks BOS, it was strongly suggested that the Library Expansion building should be a joint building with Parks and Req. This surprised the Board as that was discussed earlier this year and Parks & Req mentioned they were not interested. The Board of Selectman said that we should all three groups, BOS, Library Trustees and Parks & Req, should meet to reopen this discussion.
- It was discussed that P&R says they will not ready until 5 years from now, that is of concern as we can’t wait that long for the library.

- Dan suggested we still go for the \$4million warrant and make it a voting campaign.
- Tomorrow is Giving Tuesday – we didn't do anything. This is a lost opportunity.
- Discussion of grants: Some grants need approvers so a capital campaign would help us apply for grants.
- Discussion about having the Warrant Article versus a Warrant Capital Campaign. It was suggested that we meet with the BOS to discuss these options.
- Discussion about funds that were raised while we were working with the Fundraising Consultant, these are all in the Friends bank account. The Consultant has not driven in any funds.
- Dan believes going waiting on the building warrant and instead moving ahead with a capital campaign is a risky move because we don't know what the landscape of 2025 will be. He thinks this is the best time to pursue the warrant. The Road Agent and School will have warrants next year. He thinks we can successfully run a voting campaign.
- Dans plan for the Budget Committee meeting is to address the concerns of the BOS and get ask them to recommend.
- We need to start marketing the expansion and asking for donations.
- Cindy has a list of people in town with houses over a certain amount of money. She suggested sending those homeowners letters or emails asking to meet them regarding larger donations.
- Peggy has a list of businesses that could be potential donors.
- Kathy talked about Grants and needing information about board members for the paperwork. This will need to be discussed at the Friends Meeting.

Action Items:

- Contact Mindy from the State of NH Library to talk to us about fundraising
- We need a table at Santa Breakfast for the Expansion – Display could be in the hall, outside of the cafeteria. Andrea & Kathy to work the table.
- We need professional guidance to do our fundraising.
- Brenda to send an email to Keith Leclair to say we want to meet to discuss a path forward. We are asking him to meet with us to ask about the fund warrant, then if they both can be on the warrant. And we need to know what they need in order to give us their recommendation.
- Peggy to take over the Admin of Little Green Light
- Liz to send meeting minutes

Motion to adjourn made by Nancy Mayland/Marilyn Cavanaugh 2nd. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Liz Michaud, Secretary