

**NORTH KINGSTOWN FREE LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Apr 11, 2022

PRESENT WERE: Varuna Abeywardane, Rini Georgekutty, Dianne Izzo, Elizabeth Suvari, Lori Vernon, and Susan Aylward. Guests: Jennifer Boettger (Deputy Director Interim)

1. **Call to Order-** The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the North Kingstown Free Library held on Monday, April 11, 2022, was called to order by Board Chair Elizabeth Suvari at 7:04 p.m.
2. Pursuant to RIGL 42-46-6 (c) Notice of this meeting has been posted on the Secretary of State's website.
3. **Approval of minutes of the March 21 2022 regular meeting** – The Board **voted unanimously** to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2022 meeting on a motion made by Lori Vernon, seconded by Dianne Izzo.
4. **Budget and Finance Report**—Interim Director Aylward reviewed the budget report to date with the Board, pointing out that her forecast is showing that we are going to be very close to a balanced budget at the end of FY 2022.
5. **Director's Report: Updates and Questions**—Acting Director Aylward reviewed the news, notes, and issues that were in the Director's report. She also distributed notes from the property and building walkthrough with the DPW director Adam White and Dante Marinaro, one of the project managers for the DPW. Board Chair Suvari asked board members to come to the next meeting with questions, suggestions, and thoughts regarding the projects and issues that appear on the list and how we might prioritize them.
6. **RILA Legislative Initiative to support Bill H7916 to Increase State Aid to the 25% level in FY 2023**—Interim Director Aylward explained the legislative initiative to increase state library aid to the 25% level specified in 29.6.2 that will be a part of the Governor's budget process in the coming fiscal year. The Board **voted unanimously** to grant permission for Interim Director Aylward to request Town Council support for this bill, perhaps in the form of a resolution on a motion made by Dianne Izzo, seconded by Elizabeth Suvari.
7. **Proposal to Engage Cranston Public Library Director Ed Garcia as a consultant to the director**—The Board discussed the Interim Director's proposal in depth; she allayed concerns about the role that Ed would play. After substituting the word advisor for consultant in her proposal, the Board **voted unanimously** to approve the proposal and to forward it to the NKFL Corporation for funding consideration on a motion made by Rini Georgekutty, seconded by Elizabeth Suvari.
8. **Proposal to Eliminate Overdue Fines in FY 2023**—After discussing current trends in library service and the need both to encourage responsible use of library materials and to clear impediments that have made it difficult for the neediest of our patrons to use the library, the Board **voted unanimously** to eliminate overdue fines on all materials except for: the telescope, the book express, the DVD express, the book bags for book discussion groups to borrow, the Youth services launch pads, and the mobile hot spots, on a motion made by Lori Vernon, seconded by Varuna Abeywardane.
9. **Champlin Grant 2019 (Library Redecoration Project)**—Interim Director Aylward reported that the project is ahead of schedule and the Youth Services team has done a wonderful job preparing the space for the workers to get their jobs done expeditiously.
10. **Rain Garden report**—The Board thanked Dianne Izzo for her dogged research on the EPA grant for the rain gardens as well as identifying related landscaping issues on the Academy Cove side of the building. The Board agreed that the runoff and erosion issues are serious and need to be addressed in a comprehensive way. Interim Director Aylward will begin to investigate our options.
11. **Public Comment**—There was no public comment.
12. **Adjournment**—The Trustees voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. on a motion made by Lori Vernon, seconded by Rini Georgekutty.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Aylward, Interim Director