

Freeport Community Library
10 Library Drive
Freeport, ME 04032

January 3, 2023
Library Reading Room
6:00 pm

Courtney Sparks – Library Director
Kim Swett – Library Board Chairperson
Mary Gallie – Library Board Vice Chairperson
Jennifer Jeffrey – Library Board Secretary

Present: Courtney Sparks, Kim Swett, Mary Gallie, Darryl Uy, Andrew McDonnell, Leslie Hallock, Sally Martin

Excused: Jennifer Jeffrey, Kathryn Maicher

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

A. Approval of the minutes December 5, 2022 meeting – approved

B. Director's Report

- The New England Aquarium has been added as a library park pass. Because passes are very popular, the library may seek to obtain more passes.
- Circulation is good and normal. The in-person programs are struggling to get back to where they were before Covid. Staff is working on ideas to increase attendance. Morgan Talty, Maine Native American author of Night of Living Rez is scheduled to speak. His speaking fee was \$200 and Courtney is hoping there will be good attendance. She noted that programming is really tricky.
- Courtney is working with Peter Wegner of RSU5 Community Programs and the Friends of Freeport Library to obtain a grant for additional staffing and programming for the periods between 2:30 pm and 5:00 pm when the library often experiences an influx of 20 to 30 middle school students.
- Courtney was interviewed by the Times Record. The focus of the interview was a comparison of library usage in 2022 to prior Covid years. She indicated that library usage is out of recovery, noting that visitors remain 36% fewer than in 2019, but have increased 60% compared to 2021. She noted that circulation is similar to that in 2019 and observed that, when times are difficult, library usages changes but circulation increases.
- The disc golf course is open to the public. The course is located between the library and the middle school and has increased recreational usage of the woods. Neighbors have mixed reviews and concerns.

C. Library Aesthetics

- Katie was not present to provide an update on chair options. Staff has found two chairs that are sturdy and will work, but Courtney will delay purchase until Katie reports. If necessary to cover costs, Courtney will fund the cost of a second chair from the gift account. She is looking forward to obtaining additional artwork for the reading room.

D. Library Upgrade/Expansion Project: Building Committee.

- No meeting dates have been established. Leslie agreed to serve on the building committee.

E. Open discussion

- The Board is short a single member. Chris Wolff will follow up with an appointment. Apparently, there are several applicants.
- The Strategic Plan was updated last year. Review of the Plan will be added to the agenda for the February meeting.
- Leslie suggested that an incentivized "Library trail" might be established to encourage family visits of area libraries. Courtney expressed interest if the Minerva Open Borrowing proposal is adopted and implemented.
- Courtney expressed interest in delegating a staff person to provide community outreach to supported senior living facilities. She hopes to work in cooperation with Freeport Community Service but noted that FCS is currently focused on other more pressing demands.
- Courtney continues to work on developing a "Library of Things" to enable the borrowing of certain equipment. The inventory will be tightly curated. Policies addressing storage, sourcing, and maintenance need to be developed.

F. Adjourn at 6:50.

Next meeting: February 7, 2023