**Franklin Public Library**

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**October 25, 2021**

**Present**: Charleen Belcher, Kathleen Gerwatowski, Amanda Rabbitt, Barbara Steele of the Board, and Library Director Felicia Oti. Ginette Preto was absent.

**Call to Order**: Charleen called the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

**Public Comment:** None

**Minutes:** The minutes of the September meeting were approved.

**Report of the Board Members:**

**Kathleen:** Kathleen shared flyers from the Phoenix Public Library which offer recommended authors for various genres, such as cozy mysteries or historical fiction. Felicia will share this idea with the staff. Kathleen also noted that she attended the informative immigration program at the library on October 14th which partnered with the photography exhibit. Only three people were there, possibly due to the conflict with the town debates. Felicia will invite this speaker again.

**Barbara:** Barbara suggested inviting local authors to speak at the library. For example, Chris Woolf was profiled on the front page of last Friday’s Country Gazette. He has written a tale of his harrowing experience in Afghanistan in 1991. Barbara also has a friend who has written books on fly fishing. Felicia will reach out to him to speak in the spring.

**Charleen:** Charleen displayed her lovely artwork from a recent adult painting class held at the library. Only 13 of the 20 people who registered showed up. Sadly, there was a waiting list. The Board discussed if repercussions should be in place for no shows. Felicia said they will use the sign-up program to send automatic reminders a week ahead, then a day ahead. The reminder will state clearly to cancel if one cannot attend.

**Library Director’s Report:** Felicia thanked the Board for attending library programs. Their feedback is helpful. In the past the Board has discussed improving the library website, including making the menu shorter. The library staff does not have the necessary permissions to make changes. Recently, the library staff used Google drive to provide input on the website. Felicia believes permissions will be forthcoming.

The Franklin Library Association recently had a meeting. Felicia is waiting for official confirmation that FLA will fund the restoration of the murals in the book delivery room. The preservation company included a quote of $37,800 for scaffolding in their proposal. However, Felicia can request scaffolding from the town.

Horace Mann Educational Associates [HMEA] reached out to the Town Administrator to ask if the Library would provide an employment opportunity to a qualified individual. The individual had been trained as a page and is qualified for the position. She started last Monday.

Only four volunteers have signed up for the Students Assistance Center. The library will move forward with the program and hope more volunteers will sign up. There will be an article in the Gazette which may generate interest. A permissions form must be completed as required by the Town Attorney.

The Town Clerk recently sent the census results to Felicia. She will formulate the demographic information into the strategic plan. At the next meeting, the Board will approve the plan.

**Next meeting:** The next meeting will be held on November 22, 2021.

**Agenda for next month:** At the next meeting we will vote on the strategic plan, and receive a student assistance center, and library website update.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Gerwatowski