

## GRAND ISLE FREE LIBRARY

Minutes, December 11, 2023

Trustees Present: Kate O'Neill, Colleen Bushway, Glenda Leake, Howard DeMars and Karen Allen;  
Trustees Absent: None

Others present: Grand Isle Free Library Director, Janet Bonneau;  
Friends of the Library members Susan Willard, Norma Todd, Wanda Phelps and Alice Dunn

Howard opened the meeting at 6:02 pm.

### I. Secretary's Report:

- a. Copy of the Minutes from the October 16, 2023 meeting had been provided to the board, allowing time for the trustees to review and comment. Glenda moved to approve the Minutes as written; Colleen seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Passed unanimously.
- b. Copy of the Minutes from the November 13, 2023 meeting had been provided to the board for review. Howard moved to approve the Minutes as written; Colleen seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Passed unanimously.

### II. Treasurer's Report – Colleen indicated that she and Howard had attended the December 4<sup>th</sup> Selectboard meeting to present the proposed library operating budget for the 2024/2025 fiscal year. The budget was accepted by the board without comment, to be put on the March 2024 ballot.

Colleen provided the Treasurer's report, indicating that the Operating funds approved by the voters in March 2023 were received from the Town at the end of November. Colleen reimbursed the money market account for funds needed to cover expenses for that period of time before receipt of the town funding. The period covered was July 1 – November 30.

Bank statements for November were not yet available so the Treasurer's Report presented did not include those interest amounts. There was notification from the Department of Libraries that fees for the Interlibrary loan courier system will increase in April 2024. The library had planned for that and it had been included in the budget.

Glenda moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Howard seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

### III. Library Director's Report: Janet provided an update on library events including the recent Gingerbread House Decorating and the ongoing Storytime program. The Gingerbread House Decorating took place on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and had 66 attendees (33 adults and 33 children)! There were just enough supplies on hand due to the unexpected turnout.

Storytime is now being held in the Community Room at the Grand Isle Fire Station due to the increasing number of participants (usually 12-18 attendees) and to allow for more space to do crafts associated with the stories. There were questions about whether or not folks could check books out following Storytime if the event was no longer held at the Library itself, as had previously been available. It was noted that if folks wanted to stop by the Library after Storytime, the book checkout option might be considered.

The Raffle put on by the Friends of the Library was well received by the public and many great comments noted. The library board and Director expressed their thanks for all that the Friends of the

Library Group does. It is wonderful to have an active Friends Group. The Friends posted a note on Front Porch Forum to thank everyone for donating items and purchasing tickets. At one point in the meeting, Wanda mentioned hearing that there might have been an issue with having the raffle items displayed at the library. Janet and the library board all mentioned the benefits of having the raffle items in the Library; they drew folks in to participate in the raffle and several of them became new library patrons.

Holiday titles are on the shelves and snowshoes are out and available for use. Janet and Colleen are working on the Library Annual Report. Visits to the library are increasing with programming attendance numbers up except for off-site program attendance which is down slightly. There is a noticeable increase in numbers during the summer due in part to the summer reading program but also to the increased number of folks in the area as vacationers and summer residents. Glenda asked about how numbers would be affected if Storytime is now completely off-site. That will be determined by how the numbers need to be classified.

IV. New Business:

- a. Prior to the presentation of the Library Director's report, Howard expressed thanks for all of the efforts of Emily Rich related to Storytime and the various programming available from the library. Discussion was held to brainstorm to see if there could be any way to provide a stipend or gift to demonstrate the library's gratitude for all her hard work. Colleen mentioned the possibility of using some of the Russel Fund monies for that purpose. The Russel Fund money arrives in the spring and is not earmarked for any particular use, nor is it included in the library's budget. Colleen will check with the Town Attorney to determine if there is any reason that such a gift should not be allowed. Susan asked about Emily's position at the library and was told that she is considered the Youth Programming Volunteer, with such notation on the Library website.
- b. Friends of the Grand Isle Library – it was reported that, after expenses, the Friends Group made approximately \$831 from the raffle. There were fewer people buying tickets this year than last year. The Friends Group requested that they be allowed to hold their meetings at the Library during off hours. Previously, their meetings were held at the library during the Director's closed door hours but that could prove distracting so meeting during off hours seems preferable. Discussion was held regarding how to have the library opened for the Friends Group meetings. Their next Friends meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 10 am and one of the Trustees will make a point to be available to open the building for their use.
- c. Winter hours – the library's winter hours have historically begun at the beginning of January and gone through mid-March. Janet made a request that the winter hours be extended to the end of March due to unpredictable weather and daylight issues. Howard made the motion that the Library winter hours be in place from the beginning of January to the end of March. Colleen seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

V. Old Business.

- a. Howard made a brief mention of the topic of a new Library building. Though it will take time, there is a more positive feeling about the possibility as a new municipal building seems to be a top priority for the Grand Isle Planning Commission.

VI. The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 pm upon motion by Colleen and seconding by Kate. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Allen, Secretary