

## **THAYER MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

### **TRUSTEES MEETING**

**March 9, 2022**

#### **ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order via Zoom at 6:34 p.m.

Present were:

Emily Rose, Chair

Frank Streeter, Secretary

Ann Frantz, Trustee

Anne Ogilvie, Trustee

David Spanagel, Trustee

Library Director Joe Mulé, ex officio

Assistant Director Rachel Rosengard, Recorder

#### **MINUTES**

February 8, 2022:

Trustee Spanagel moved to accept minutes; Trustee Frantz seconded.

Trustee Spanagel: Yea  
Trustee Frantz: Yea  
Secretary Streeter: Yea  
Trustee Ogilvie: Yea  
Chair Rose: Yea

February 9, 2022:

Trustee Frantz moved to accept the minutes; Secretary Streeter seconded.

Trustee Ogilvie: Yea  
Trustee Spanagel: Yea  
Trustee Frantz: Yea  
Secretary Streeter: Yea  
Chair Rose: Yea

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on April 13, 2022.

#### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Rose thanked the Library staff for staying on top of the shift from a masking mandate to a masking advisory and inquired of any impact on staff or patrons. The Board asked about in-person programming. Director Mulé mentioned that in-person programming had already started.

At the Finance Committee meeting on March 15, Jeff Nutting, Interim Town Administrator, and the Trustees will discuss the Library's feasibility study.

Chair Rose asked how the Board felt about resuming meetings in person and what options the Board should have for remote participation. Secretary Streeter advocated for continuing to meet on Zoom for as long as possible.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Building Committee**

Joe is waiting to engage an HVAC engineer until after he sees if the funds for the Library's feasibility study are approved at the Annual Town Meeting in May. He was pleased to report that there are no new leaks in the building.

### **Fundraising**

Trustee Spanagel reported that the subcommittee met on February 22, 2022, and has collected \$24,912.29.

Publicity on social media continues apace.

Trustee Spanagel noted that April 6th is Library Giving Day and could be a fundraising opportunity.

### **Planning**

Trustee Ogilvie discussed the focus group among Board members and staff led by consultant Barbara Friedman. She stated she is sending a poll to select a time for the groups to meet.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Mulé confirmed that the files on SharePoint were available to the Board. The Board offered congratulations to Assistant Director Rosengard on being awarded her first grant.

Director Mulé mentioned that the Library is not eligible for the Massachusetts Preservations Project Fund grant. All the land and buildings around the Town Green are considered one plot of land and have one shared title. The Library can get a preservation restriction only if it has a discreet title. It is possible to subdivide of a separate lot for the Library, but it is a long and complex process involving both the Board of Trustees and the Select Board.

Secretary Streeter added that the entire plot falls under Article 97 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Any changes to the exterior of the building require action from the State Legislature.

Trustee Ogilvie shared that she would like to see a remodel of the Library's outdoor space behind the Children's Room, to create more usable areas for patron use and programming.

Secretary Streeter moved that the Board will authorize Chair Rose to speak with Jeff Nutting to find out how the Finance Committee would like the previously authorized funds addressed for the Feasibility Study and negotiate with the Committee as long as the Library gets the money it needs. Trustee Ogilvie seconded.

Secretary Streeter moved that the Board authorize Chair Rose to speak with Jeff Nutting to find out how the Finance Committee would like the previously approved funds addressed for the Feasibility Study and to negotiate with the Committee to ensure the Library gets the money it needs. Trustee Ogilvie seconded. The board discussed whether those funds could remain in the Window Restoration Fund or would be put towards the cost of the feasibility study.

Trustee Frantz voiced unease about offering to return funds to the Town. Trustee Spanagel mused that acting with generosity in the direction of the Finance Committee will would encourage them to do likewise.

The motion was brought to a vote:

Trustee Ogilvie: Yea

Trustee Spanagel: Yea

Trustee Frantz: Yea

Secretary Streeter: Yea

Chair Rose: Yea

## **NEW BUSINESS**

No new business.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

Trustee Ogilvie will send out a Google poll.

Chair Rose will speak with Jeff Nutting about the Feasibility Study and with Director Mulé about Trustee portraits.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Secretary Streeter moved to adjourn. Trustee Spanagel seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Board adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Streeter

Secretary

Assistant Director Rachel Rosengard

Recorder