Smiths Falls Public Library Board Minutes

Date:

March 26, 2024

Location:

Temporary Library 6:36 p.m.

Time: Adjournment:

8:06 p.m.

In attendance:

A. Guerin

J. Miller

C. Mariona

R. Cauley

M. Gallagher

S. McLean Knapp

C. Cummings (part-time)
A. Foster, CEO/Chief Librarian

Regrets:

M. Murphy

S. Martin

Agenda / Item / Issue

Discussion / Action

1. Call to order

A. Guerin called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The partial Land Acknowledgement Statement for the Town of Smiths Falls was read by A. Guerin.

3. Approval of the Agenda

The Montague Report was removed from the agenda. Motion: S. McLean Knapp moved the approval of the agenda as amended. Seconded by J. Miller. Carried.

4. Minutes of February 27, 2024

Motion: It was moved by M. Gallagher and seconded by J. Miller that the minutes of February 27, 2024 be accepted as circulated. Carried.

5. Disclosure of Monetary

Interest

None.

6. Business Arising from the

Minutes

All arising business is part of later agenda items.

7. Correspondence

There was another FOPL update (March 12, 2024). They've been busy with their lobbying efforts.

8. Librarian's Report and

Statistics

The Librarian's Report for February was summarized by A. Foster. Visits were down a lot less than physical circulation was compared to February 2023 which was quite different from January. We continued to have many phone calls asking where we were.

Over Drive (Libby holds continue to high (over 1,000)

OverDrive/Libby holds continue to high (over 1,000) with a growing average wait time. The Smiths Falls Digital Archive became unavailable. We stopped

handing out postcards as it had been two months but we

have some available at events we attend. Library card signup can be done online now. While lower than in the past, our reimbursement for ILL costs still exceeded what we spent on postage. The book drop was moved to the front of the library due to construction. We had a complaint about the accessible computer being "segregated" despite being with the rest of the computers. The Winter Carnival and Swifty BFF bracelets went well though not exactly as planned. Kits have proven very popular. Book club attendance was good. Teen Night attendance was quite varied. Baby and story time attendance was good. The After School Hangout will not continue due to very low attendance. We'll soon be introducing a 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program which staff are excited about. The information about the SFDA can't be confirmed due to the outage.

Motion: It was moved by A. Guerin and seconded by S. McLean Knapp to accept the librarian's report. Carried.

9. Front Door Replacement

Door Craft Joinery, a division of Heritage Carpentry & Joinery Company Inc., was deemed to be the best fit based on references from past customers (churches). Motion: It was moved by J. Miller and seconded by S. McLean Knapp to accept the quote from Door Craft Joinery in the amount of \$13,402.50 plus HST. Carried.

10. Updated Staffing Plan

An upcoming retirement necessitated modifications to the staffing plan that was presented last year. The position being vacated is not one that was planned to be kept full-time long-term so it doesn't make sense to replace it. Instead, the plan will have the Library Assistant-Digital Services position go to full-time and a Library Assistant-General will be hired on a part-time basis. The updated staffing plan should not have much of an effect on wage costs and will probably lower costs slightly as the number of hours worked will not increase at this time. A. Foster will consult with N. Bennett at the town. The next phase of the plan will hopefully commence in 2025 and allow more staffing for children's programming.

11. Communication with Town

A. Guerin had a meeting with S. Clark and N. Bennett. They discussed pay equity at a high-level but did not get into details. A significant change in wages is expected as a result of pay equity. They are aware that the library didn't pass the HR portion of the budget due to lack of information. The town's Accessibility Committee is on board with providing input on the library's furniture plan and on the library building as a whole (when available but before reopening to the public). She

thanked R. Cauley for stressing the importance of accessibility. J. Miller suggested also consulting with the Smiths Falls for All Committee. A. Guerin noted that her conversation also involved the MOU and the need for communication after the MOU is signed; she felt the conversation was very positive.

12. Committee Updates

Finance:

The financial report ending February 29, 2024 was presented.

Fundraising:

R. Cauley noted that committee has met twice. A GoFundMe is live. J. Miller noted that she'd mentioned the fundraising efforts to council. S. Martin has been organizing a music trivia/dance event. C. Cummings has arranged for R. Cauley (and hopefully A. Guerin) to be interviewed by K. Botham. Flyers are available and A. Foster will print more as needed. M. Murphy wrote a a fundraising document which A. Foster reformatted; a cover page and a non-squished logo will be added to complete the document.

Policy and Governance:

Another meeting will be scheduled for some time in May.

Property Committee:

C. Cummings showed photographs of the renovation progress. It was discovered that the solid wall at the top of the stairs had originally had windows in it. The flooring, while only a few years old, is of inadequate quality to save so we'll have to look at other options. C. Cummings has found \$78,000 in savings thus far and most of the big potential surprises should have happened by now so this shouldn't be a problem. He met with the heritage carpenter and he's very excited about how amazing the door will look. Overall, things are moving quite smoothly with the renovation.

13. Municipal Report

J. Miller noted that last night's council meeting lasted for 3.5 hours. She's very pleased that the resolution to support basic income was passed as there it is clearly needed in this community. They decided to go to tender on the Confederation Bridge project which will be a wooden bridge; the Municipal Heritage Committee supports the project. The old water treatment plant has to come down as their insurance will only pay for demolition but they hope to save some elements like stone. They've also tendered the new water tower (which they are hopeful of receiving additional grants for) and the George Street project.

14. New Business

None.

15. Date of Next Meeting

April 23 at 6:30 p.m.

16. Adjournment

A. Guerin adjourned the meeting at 8:06 pm.

A. Guerin, Chair

A. Foster, Secretary