

The Mountain Top Library

Regular Meeting

March 19, 2024

Meeting called to order at 5pm. Present were Susan Kleinfelder, Bev Feml, Ellen Manfredi, Stephanie Streich, Heather Barnett and Jaki Elmo-Emel, library director.

Minutes of previous meeting approved on a motion made by Bev, 2nd by Stephanie and passed.

Treasurer's Report: full report is attached. Bev got a quote on cyber insurance of \$1,000 per year with a \$5,000 deductible. Discussion as to whether we need it or not and consensus is not at this time. Discussion on whether or not to pay off mortgage from building account. Board consensus is to continue making mortgage payments so we have a small reserve for repairs. New annual amount of \$112,000 was received from the town towards our budget.

Director's Report: full report is attached. Another busy month. There is a need for a new laptop and a new desktop computer. Board previously approved the purchase of computers as needed to upgrade and replace. As always Jaki will seek funding for this purchase if available. Board members are in compliance with state training requirement. Jaki has submitted paperwork for a possible reduced rate for our internet and phone and also multiple applications for grants for programming.

Building Report: Ellen and Jaki met with reps from the Watershed and DEC to clarify who pays for what maintenance of the paving and drainage system. There is a \$34,000 fund from which we can draw for items such as spring cleanup, cleaning and repairing gutters, mowing and trimming around the rain gardens, and other items associated with the paving and drainage installed by the City. They will also pay for the repair needed to the broken grates in the driveway. We will draw from this carefully over the years because it is limited to the \$34,000. Gutter repairs will be put on hold until the new canopy is in place since that will change the gutter line. Also rock salt may be used as a deicer on the porous pavement, just not sand. On the sloped driveways any material can be used as that is not porous pavement. Bottini has been contacted to make the necessary repairs on the heating system which has not been heating properly in the office space.

Friends Report: a Brunch/Silent Auction is planned for Sunday Jun 30 at the library. Combined book sales for the 12 months Mar 1 to Feb 29 were \$5,048. The Friends currently have \$13,419 in their check book. EBay account has \$1464 and growing. Funds from there will be used to pay the postage for the annual appeal. They are now paying \$600 quarterly towards the MHLS fees and have just gotten a wish list from the library director which they will fund.

Old Business: still waiting for the revised DRI contract which includes the portico. The Eclipse Party will be April 8 from 2-5. Discussion on the cost of EBooks. MHLS mandates what we have

to order at a minimum which is \$1500-\$2000 per year. That number is weighted and based on usage and size of the library. Items are pricey because unlike a book a purchase is only good for 26 withdrawals and then must be repurchased as needed.

New Business: MHLS recommends that we go for the budget initiatives on the town and school ballots more frequently and in smaller increments. We now plan to ask for an increase on the school ballot of 2025. The Songbirds have been slated for August 2nd.

Next Regular Meeting is April 16, 2024 at 5pm

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 on a motion made by Bev, 2nd by Heather and passed.

Respectfully Submitted

Ellen Manfredi, Secretary