Douglas Library Board Meeting

March 13, 2024

Present: Bunny McGuire, chair; Bonnie Kinsman, Laura Leifert, Laura Morales Chapell, Melanie Neely, Rose Lopez, Charlie Adams, Carol Schulz, Taylor Lemon, Norma DeMay, Library Director.

Minutes of January 2024 meeting were accepted.

Old Business:
Appeal: $13680 to date.

New Business:
Recap of January Meeting with Greg & Kaitlyn Karcheski re: upstairs etc.
Members who had been absent at previous board meetings were brought up to date and a lengthy discussion ensued regarding the suggested renovations for the library. Members liked the idea of a kitchen and the possibility of utilizing the upstairs for more community events but did not particularly like the suggestion of baby showers and birthday parties. Most were not in favor in reconfiguring the downstairs of the library. Members were urged to bring their ideas to the next meeting and schedule a meeting in the near future with Greg and Kaitlyn.

Finances: Budget: The budget request was submitted to the Selectmen in February and has been approved by them. First Selectman Brian Ohler met with Bunny and Norma; he brought up the possibility of building a new library over by the school where the pool is currently situated. Bunny and Norma said we get a lot of walkers being in the center of town and space in the library is not a problem at this time. Norma suggested that it could be a possibility in the future if it was something North Canaan residents wanted. Brian gave us a tour of the library to see all the renovations and new furnishings that the ARPA funds made possible.

Gifts: Norma reported that the library received the funding request of $3000 from the Canaan Foundation and $1000 from Crosswicks Foundation. Thank you notes have been sent.

Librarian’s Report: Norma reported that the two donation boxes on the Circulation Desk were stolen in late February; there was about $20 in the containers and she contacted the police. It was discovered that a window was deliberately unlocked during library hours and the thief likely entered from the phone company side. Staff has been strongly urged to check window locks each night before closing.

The lights for the art wall have been installed thanks to the gift of the Friends. Norma said it really enhances the artwork on display.

Tom Vaillonis from NW Community College is using the CT room each Wednesday for 3 hours to teach a safety class to BD employees via zoom. He would like to extend the teaching times beyond May. Norma suggested that BD contribute to the library for this usage of the library for their employees. BD had promised a donation to the appeal but it is still "pending" for the past several months despite all of the paperwork Norma submitted to them. Members agreed some type of donation should be forthcoming.

Events: The library is hosting three Medicare Information sessions in March. These events are free.
Bunny reported that the library will be able to sell used books at the Vendor Fair being held on the same day as the Plant Sale, May 18, 10-1. Carol will contact Friends regarding the plants to be sold. Laura M. will contact Dave Moran about getting geraniums again for the sale. Several members will provide vehicles for transporting the plants to the library. Norma will contact Tim Abbott about a history talk this spring.

Respectfully submitted,

Norma DeMay
Library Director