

Ventress Memorial Library

Trustee Meeting Minutes

November 29, 2023

1. Call to order

Trustee Chair Gregory Caille called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. In attendance, Chair Gregory Caille, Vice-Chair Michelle Noonan, Dana Forsythe, Robert Marzelli, Wally Coyle, Greg Guimond and Cyndee Marcoux (Library Director). Absent Dylan White

2. Approval of Minutes of October 18, 2023

Trustee Guimond motioned to approve the minutes of October 18, 2023. Trustee Forsythe seconded the motion; a roll call vote was taken, Trustee Marzelli abstained (he was not at the October meeting) all others were in favor.

3. Announcements and Correspondence

Mr. Kazarian asked to be put on the agenda to discuss the condition of the library grounds. Before he discussed the grounds, he wanted to let the Trustees know that he thinks a public library should be the "Crown Jewel of the Community". He said that over the last few years he has been cleaning up the grounds when he can. But it is impossible for one person to do this. He met with the Town Administrator who explained to him that the DPW is a separate entity and he has no control over the department. He met with the new DPW commissioner Diane Jordan hoping she would be interested in helping out the library. He did not get a positive response. Next, he met with Selectperson Lynne Fidler who also informed him that the Select Board has no authority over the DPW. Finally, he also met with the Friends of the Library who agreed that the grounds need attention but that it is not in their purview to provide this service. has reached out to the DPW, Town Administrator and the Friends of the Ventress Memorial Library with no success. He is very frustrated that no one seems to care about the library grounds.

The Trustees discussed the issue with several possible solutions being proposed. Trustee Marzelli suggested trying to get one or two Senior Tax Relief Worker to help maintain the grounds.

The Director will make the request when the new application process begins.

Trustee Guimond suggested that some of the Trails Committee volunteers may be willing to help out occasionally to keep the grounds maintained. He also mentioned that Shawn Patterson was the new DPW Supervisor. He also suggested we try to work with Jimmy Kent and Jimmy Jackson as they are the second and third in command.

Trustee Forsythe has been pushing the Town for improvements at the library for several years. He suggested we look into having "Native Plantings" installed. He said there is a place in Norwell that specializes in this type of landscaping. He will send the Director the information.

Trustee Guimond had to leave the meeting as he had another meeting to attend.

4. **Directors Report**

The Director went over her report. There were no questions.

5. **FY23 Budget Update**

The Town Administrator indicated at the Special Town Meeting that FY23 budget would not be certified until late December or early January 2024.

6. **FY24 Budget Update**

The budget is on track with the exception of Library Automation. This line was and has been underfunded for several years. The Director is hoping to get it fully funded in FY25.

7. **FY25 Budget Draft**

The Director has created a draft FY25 Full Service Budget. She is waiting to hear from the Town Administrator for a meeting to discuss the FY25 budget.

8. **Set date for next meeting**

The next meeting will be in person on January 17th at 4 p.m. via Zoom

9. **Adjourn**

Trustee Marzelli made a motion to adjourn at 4:51pm. Trustee Coyle seconded the motion; a roll call vote was taken all were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cyndee Marcoux