

LONDONDERRY LEACH LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES Minutes of November 1, 2023

Page 1 of 18

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:59 p.m. by Chair Betsy McKinney. The following board members were in attendance: Kim Bears, Christine Fitzgerald, Carol Introne, and Helen Palmieri. Also in attendance: Erin Matlin, Library Director; Donna Plante, Assistant Director and Head of Technical Services; Megan Donovan, Head of Circulation Services.

Public Comment:

Jonathan Esposito shared that he had been communicating with Director Matlin regarding a nonfiction work written by a New Hampshire author and was a NASA employee that he donated to the library on or around June 28, 2023 titled *The Croydon Budget Battle*. The book represents actual events that occurred in 2022 in Croydon, New Hampshire. Upon giving it to the circulation desk, Mr. Esposito asked that it not be donated for sale by the Friends of the Library and instead be added to the collection. Mr. Esposito contacted Director Matlin on Friday, August 18, 2023 for an update on the status of his donation. Erin Matlin responded on Monday, August 21, 2023 to thank him for the donation and notify him the book would not be added to the collection. After filing a 91-A records request regarding the donation, Mr. Esposito stated that library staff emails showed the book sat on a shelf for a couple months before a verbal conversation, in his opinion, was intentionally taken offline between Erin Matlin and Jennifer Bryant. Mr. Esposito expressed that his questions regarding who examined the book and why the book was not accepted had not been answered in detail to date. He asked Director Matlin to address why the book was banned.

Erin Matlin informed Mr. Esposito that the book has not been banned and is available to access through interlibrary loan. She stated that she did not answer his question initially because he immediately filed a 91-A, which then required the documentation. She responded in a later email when he asked again. The conversation she had with Head of Children's Services Jennifer Bryant was related to a different donation. Director Matlin discussed *The Croydon Budget Battle* donation with Assistant Director Donna Plante, Head of Circulation Services Megan Donovan, and Head of Reference and Adult Services Matt Fuller. Reasons for not adding the book included that it is available from another library, it does not relate directly to Londonderry, there is limited shelf space, and there are no professional reviews available as it is self-published.

Jonathan Esposito requested that the library staff be more forthcoming and transparent in the future.

Christine Fitzgerald stated that she thought all books by local authors were automatically accepted and added to the collection. Erin Matlin responded that the author in this case is

LONDONDERRY LEACH LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes of November 1, 2023

Page 2 of 18

a New Hampshire author, not a Londonderry author. Donna Plante stated that everything added to the collection needs to fit the library's Collection Development Policy, regardless of local author status. The policy is adopted by the Board of Trustees.

David Walker spoke against banning books with references to *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury and the history of book burning during World War II, stating that historically book burnings have never been on the right side of any issue. He expressed concern that local elected officials spoke on behalf of state, town and family values, defamed the LGBTQA community, and perpetuated their personal agendas at recent Board of Trustees meetings. He questioned their credentials and asked if, with his education and experience, it is time to form a nonprofit organization to support the library or if he should run for the next Leach Library Board of Trustee vacancy.

Christine Fitzgerald asked David Walker to clarify what specific book she was trying to ban. Mr. Walker answered the American Library Association.

Betsy McKinney asked that everyone keep individual names out of their comments going forward.

Erica Laue presented her concerns as a parent regarding the rumors that there have been requests to remove books from shelves or ban them from the library, stating that access to books with conflicting ideas and uncomfortable topics are needed to grow as a citizenry and to raise children to be thoughtful, engaged, mindful, and productive citizens. She cautioned against letting political whims dictate what can be read or accessed at the library. Ms. Laue expressed outrage that the Board has considered removing membership to the ALA as the ALA offers social justice training for staff to meet the needs of every person visiting the library with respect, courtesy, kindness, and engagement that makes everyone feel safe. Ms. Laue identified herself as a queer parent and wants her children to know she will be treated with the same respect as her straight neighbor when visiting the library. She explained she wants all children who live in the community who identify as trans, nonbinary, questioning or who have experienced racism, slavery, immigration restrictions, abuse, or trauma to know they are walking into a place where the staff is trained. She asked the Board not to remove ALA membership and to keep library shelves diverse and library staff informed so the library will continue to be a place that makes so many feel safe and welcome.

Deborah Lievens shared she has been coming to the Leach Library since it was in Matthew Thornton. She agreed with Erica Laue and supports the library. Ms. Lievens stated she does not want other people controlling what books are in the library based on their perceived Londonderry values and that books should be left for the people that want to read them. She supported making the Londonderry community as diverse and welcoming as possible.

Linda Harvey spoke to the important role the Leach Library had in her life while growing up in Londonderry, particularly because there was no internet at that time. The book

LONDONDERRY LEACH LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes of November 1, 2023

Page 3 of 18

Maus was an important work to her and shaped her personal views, opening her eyes to the experiences of Jewish people including her best friend's family, and she later learned more through travel. Ms. Harvey described the works as hard to absorb and read but did not believe they should be removed from the shelves or be banned. She did not believe the library should be removed from the ALA and asked the Board not to affect the public's freedom to access information.

Scott Bristol spoke as a lifetime resident of Londonderry that the library is a place to get unbiased information and facts, adding that two different issues are being combined during public comment. He stated that banning books can be debated, but he takes issue with the library's ALA membership because it has become a one-sided organization, and that bias as a governing body undermines the public's expectation. Mr. Bristol explained that if the library is governed by a severe, one-sided mentality, the library cannot be a place for unbiased information anymore. He cautioned the Board that many people believe the library is a dinosaur or relic, and they need to hold on to the value it has. He confirmed he does not support any taxpayer dollars going to fund the ALA.

Robert Saur asked if the public would be able to speak outside of public comment when the Board gets to the discussion about the ALA. Betsy McKinney confirmed the public will not be able to comment. Mr. Saur encouraged others to speak during public comment if they have something to say.

Robert Saur reflected on the times he had been to another library as a high school student. He had a Jesuit education, and his teachers told him to go to the library to read the Apocrypha Bible, a portion of the Bible not accepted by the modern church. Mr. Saur stated that reading about diverse opinions and ideas makes people more intellectual and well-educated, the type of people he hopes are in the community.

Kate Dufour shared she has two children and wants to raise them to be welcoming, inclusive, kind-hearted people. They love the library and the librarians and feel welcome at the library. She is disheartened to see community members and potentially trustees and board members let their personal opinions about certain books and topics cloud the vision of the freedom of information and representation. Ms. Dufour stated she trusts herself, her husband, and the community to guide her children, but she rejects anyone taking away their choice to read certain books, adding that the library and schools are doing an excellent job. She encouraged anyone in a position of power to represent the people and not their own opinions. She stated that book banning is a slippery slope, and there is a lot to learn from history that can be read on the library's shelves.

Karen Groves shared that her children are grown and live elsewhere, but her grandsons have enjoyed visiting the library. Ms. Groves reflected on the state's motto to live free or die, stating that banning books is not allowing everyone to live free because it takes away her right to choose. She does not believe book banning is correct or the way things should be done in New Hampshire.

LONDONDERRY LEACH LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes of November 1, 2023

Page 4 of 18

Maria Barud shared that she loves the library, and her kids come to the library. She likes hearing that everyone at the meeting wants diversity and wants everyone's opinions to be heard. She believes conservative opinions are not being heard as much, noting that the library's choices have changed in recent years such as by keeping Columbus Day hidden and promoting Indigenous Peoples Day when both can be promoted. Ms. Barud stated no one wants to ban books and children should have freedom of choice, but she questioned why there are more choices on the progressive agenda than on conservative values. She added that she has a problem with the library being a member of ALA because the director, Emily Drabinski, is a self-proclaimed Marxist. Growing up in Poland under communism, socialism, and Marxism, she had a problem seeing that the library subscribes to a group openly promoting Marxism and Marxism agendas through libraries. She agreed there should be different opinions at the library, and parents should have a choice. However, she is seeing one side being promoted more while the other one is being silenced. Ms. Barud noted she wants her children to have access, but, in her opinion, there are a lot of inappropriate books that should be somewhere in the library but not displayed for little children to see because she does not agree with telling little children they can be a boy or a girl. She encouraged inclusivity and including parents that have conservative values.

Schawn Faber stated that everyone speaking is really impassioned, and the common theme has been on book banning. He did not believe anyone in attendance wanted any kind of book banning. Mr. Faber asked for a more transparent process from the library, noting that he understood not every book could be on the shelf. He stated that there should be a process for everyone to see clearly and concisely which books got rejected and why so everybody can see what is going on and can go back to being a nice, inclusive, happy community.

Betsy McKinney responded that the library does have policies in place.

Jonathan Esposito responded that there are policies in place, but he found through the 91-A government records request process that the policies have not been consistently applied or followed or not all staff members are currently trained on them. He suggested having a more transparent process that all staff are trained on.

Amy Furlong thanked the staff, noting that the discussion is probably really tough for the staff and recognizing that it's a hot-button issue. She stated that she knows the staff tries really hard and works really hard, and she appreciates the staff so much.

Jody Underwood shared that she published *The Croydon Budget Battle*, and her husband wrote it to share what happened from his side, not from what the mainstream media reported. She heard the comment about not having enough room on the shelf and noted the book is less than a half-inch in width. She questioned the reason given that there were no comments online, explaining that somebody who lives in town recommended and gave the book to the library. While the book is available through interlibrary loan, when someone walks down the shelves, they do not see it and do not know it is there. Having it

LONDONDERRY LEACH LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes of November 1, 2023

Page 5 of 18

in the collection allows it to be seen. She shared that other libraries in New Hampshire have shelves that are specifically about local authors, and they are not just from the small town the library is in. She stated she would like to know why the library did not want the book on the shelves because none of the reasons given make any sense.

Erin Matlin responded that she made it clear to Mr. Esposito in an email that library staff met about the book and discussed the reasoning, explaining that the library gets hundreds of donations sometimes a day, sometimes a week. It is impossible for staff to go through all of them, but this donation was specifically handed to staff for the collection. The library is not a book depository and cannot afford to have every donated book on the shelf. Other book donations have been given back to the donor because they asked for them back. This book was available through interlibrary loan, and out of the two books donated in the same period, the staff reviewed them both and made a decision based on library policies and procedures. The discussions were not secret discussions. They were colleagues talking about the book, what was available online, what was known about the book, and where it was owned. The staff are professional people that have these discussions, and they are not based on personal opinions. Director Matlin added that there are books in the library she would choose not to read and that have things she does not believe in, but they are in the library because people want them, and that is what the staff are supposed to do. For the particular book, it was available from another library, and shelf space is a factor and always is. The library orders hundreds of books sometimes a week, sometimes a month that are new and have been requested. No one had requested this book, which was another factor.

Jody Underwood responded that the book was brand new and was published this year. She thanked Director Matlin for trying to explain.

Maureen Hardy stated she is against banning books, adding that she would like the library to be inclusive and include conservative values as well as progressive values. She shared that she donated 11 children's books in June and was told by Director Matlin they would be shelved, but only five have been added to date. The books help teach children about economics and history and are based on famous economists' ideas. Ms. Hardy expressed being baffled about the outrage on banning books when it looks like mostly conservative-value books are being slow-walked or not allowed on the shelves. She attended the Board of Trustees' meeting in June and said as a Londonderry citizen she did not want taxpayer dollars spent on the NHLTA or ALA because they are one-sided. She stated she knows someone who attended the conference in the spring and there were no programs on the enrichment of children, on helping children read or learn, or on constructive playing for socialization. The topics were all one-sided, progressive ideas. Ms. Hardy acknowledged that Director Matlin had previously said the organizations have benefited the library in the past, but she believes the resources they provide can be found elsewhere from an unbiased source.

Deb Desrochers shared that she is happy to have her tax dollars spent by the people she trusts, especially Director Matlin, who has made the library better. She shared she

LONDONDERRY LEACH LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes of November 1, 2023

Page 6 of 18

constantly has people telling her about the vibrancy, activities, and excitement at the library now. She stated she has come very few times to the library, but she heard the comments about only this or that being done, and it upset her. She described herself as a middle-of-the-way person with her own opinions, but she does not believe her opinion is the only way. She added that the staff and Board does a great job, and she hoped the Board would not vote to leave the ALA. Ms. Desrochers explained the library was built with all of the standard books for that day and time, and it was conservative. The library should update for the present time with new policies, objectives, and ideas. She stated it may seem what is being added is one-sided, but the library already has all of the classics and everything else.

Martha Smith asked Director Matlin to explain how the ALA influences the library. She stated that, from the discussion, it seemed like the ALA controls the library's inventory.

Erin Matlin responded that the ALA, the American Library Association, is an organization that has existed a very long time, and they support libraries. They do not control what is in the library's collection or the building, how the budget is spent, how to add to the collection, or anything like that. They cannot take books off the shelf. The Board and staff are in charge of the building and library. As a member of ALA, the library receives discounts for professional materials, staff trainings, and purchases from other vendors. The library staff can take advantage of the trainings, programs, and conferences they offer, but the ALA does not control anything at all at the Leach Library or at other libraries.

Beth Marrocco thanked the staff, Trustees, and everyone in attendance. She shared she has been in Londonderry for over 20 years and has watched the library transform into a dynamic space. Coming from a conservative background, as a child she did not see the things she now advocates for in the areas of diversity, equity, and inclusion. She stated she wants the library to continue working in these areas because everyone deserves to see themselves represented in any public library through books and media. Ms. Marrocco added it is empowering to have a trained team of librarians that can access resources through associations. She encouraged finding a balance to move forward as the library is a building of ideas and no one should agree with all of them. She cautioned against getting locked into a value system like Londonderry values because Londonderry has many thousands of people, and even people who appear to have the same values can find things they do not agree on. She stated that pigeonholing Londonderry to a value set takes away from people with a different opinion and makes it seem like those people have a lack of values. She asked everyone to be careful with their language, especially if they are talking about their values at a Trustee meeting as a representative of Londonderry. She agreed not everyone shares the same ideals, and the library's public space should house all of them. She asked the Board not to withhold membership from the organizations because the trainings, resources, and the fact that the Town is asking is critical.

LONDONDERRY LEACH LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES Minutes of November 1, 2023

Page 7 of 18

Kylie Hernandez shared she is a Londonderry resident and a library employee. She stated she loves working at the library and it is her honor to serve the community. She is happy to see everyone who comes through the door and wants them to feel welcome, whether they have progressive or conservative values. She expressed she wants everyone to feel like they belong at the library because they do.

Robin Gardner shared her support of the library staff. She expressed her appreciation for the library's recent survey and for thoroughly responding to the things the community wanted. She stated that the library staff are the experts and she trusts their judgement. She spoke in favor of her taxpayer dollars going to the American Library Association and learned a lot in researching what they do. Ms. Gardner shared the ALA started in 1876 and is an organization that promotes literacy, diversity, education, lifelong learning, equitable access to information, library services, and intellectual freedom described as a basic right in a democratic society and a core value of the library profession. She read that the ALA actively defends the right of library users to read, seek information, and speak freely as guaranteed by the First Amendment. She explained ALA is a support and connection to all the libraries in the country. She confirmed that is where she wants her tax dollars to go.

Sarah Faber stated that even if the ALA does not have control, they have influence. She asked if the library owns *Mein Kampf*. Erin Matlin responded she could look it up. Ms. Faber believed the library owned the book and recommended replacing it with *The Croydon Budget Battle*.

Margaret Saur shared her background as a bookstore employee and her personal dislike for political books. Even though she is personally against the book, Ms. Saur did not believe *Mein Kampf* should be removed from the library because it needs to be at the library. She described *Mein Kampf* as a conservative book and stated that Conservatives should be glad it is at the library. Ms. Saur then retracted her statement. She continued to state her support for the library.

Ian Underwood introduced himself as the author of *The Croydon Budget Battle*, and stated that the library does not need to have *Mein Kampf* because it is available through interlibrary loan.

Margaret Saur responded that it is a slippery slope to start banning books based on anyone's opinions. Sarah Faber stated it would be replaced, not banned. Margaret Saur responded that eliminating the book is a ban. Sarah Faber responded in agreement.

Margaret Saur stated that Mr. Underwood's book should be valued. Ian Underwood agreed and responded that there is plenty of shelf space. Margaret Saur stated she understands the library's issue with space and, reflecting on her experience, shared it is about putting items on the shelf to try to accommodate the audience, adding that she has to respect the library staff's opinion.

LONDONDERRY LEACH LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES Minutes of November 1, 2023

Page 8 of 18

Mary McQueeney thanked the Board for the opportunity for everyone to attend. As the Moose Hill School Librarian, she shared it is a hard job, adding that there are parameters to adhere to regarding what needs to be on the shelf. She stated she receives donations, and there is a process that she receives questions about every year. She explained the job is hard and includes providing all the literature to expand children's minds and to give them opportunities. Ms. McQueeney stated that having the public forum is very important because everyone at the meeting cares. She commended the staff and Board for offering public comment. She recommended more transparency to help educate the public and alleviate the discrepancies and questions. She noted that the current forum is the beginning of positive changes to come, and it takes a village to educate the young population. She shared it is her job and the librarians' job to offer access to all literature at all times. She reflected that the room and community has a range of people from different generations and backgrounds, but we are nothing without a book.

Robert Saur asked for the cost of ALA membership and the library's total budget. Erin Matlin confirmed she is the only staff member that has a membership. The library does not have an organizational membership. The individual membership costs \$118.00 per year. The total library budget this year is approximately \$1,311,742.

Christine Fitzgerald asked to respond to public comments made about her. Betsy McKinney declined.

Erin Matlin read a letter aloud from Elizabeth Logan written in response to the recent challenge of *Gender Queer*. She asked the Board to continue providing unrestricted access to diverse literature at the library because books are tools for understanding complex issues such as gender and sexuality, and limiting access will lead students to seek information from unsafe sources. Ms. Logan noted everyone's goal is to protect the children of Londonderry, and inclusive communities are safer places to grow up with lower rates of bullying. She asked the Board to continue making Londonderry a safe place for all children.

Secretary's Report:

The Secretary's Report for October 4, 2023, was distributed prior to the meeting.

A **motion** was made by Carol Introne to accept the minutes without changes. The **motion was seconded** by Kim Bears. All in attendance accepted the motion, **motion carried**.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report for July 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023, was distributed prior to the meeting.

LONDONDERRY LEACH LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES Minutes of November 1, 2023

Page 9 of 18

A **motion** was made by Kim Bears to accept the report as written. The **motion was seconded** by Helen Palmieri. All in attendance accepted the motion, **motion carried**.

Director's Report:

Gifts Donated to the Leach Library –

- Carol Introne donated \$200.00 for library programming.

A **motion** was made by Carol Introne to accept the gift. The **motion was seconded** by Helen Palmieri. All in attendance accepted the motion, **motion carried**.

Announcements

- 10/5/2023 -- The Learning Tree Early Education Center LLC came to replace our flowers with beautiful mums that were donated by Shady Hill Greenhouses and Nursery.
- 10/10/2023 – Cunningham Security was here to take a look at alarm panel & check a sensor.
- 10/20/2023 – NE Lawn Irrigation came to winterize the outside sprinklers.
- 10/23/2023 – ENE was here to take a look around and update our service contract.
- 10/27/2023 – Access Lock & Safe was here replacing all the locks on the meeting room.
- 10/27/2023 – Master Roofers started to roof replacement project.
- 10/30/2023 – We had our 3rd Puzzle Swap. We had 617 puzzles donated, and 51 patrons came to pick out new puzzles.

Scheduled and Unscheduled Closings

- November 11, 2023 – Closed for Veterans Day
- November 22, 2023 – Close at 5:00pm for the Thanksgiving Holiday
- November 23, 2023 – Closed for Thanksgiving Day
- November 24, 2023 – Closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday
- November 25, 2023 – Closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday

News & Programs

- November 2023, Letter to the Editor

We are so lucky that this is a community that values and loves their library! I wanted to share a couple of ways that you can get involved at your local library.

If you are interested in becoming a trustee and supporting the library mission, then I encourage you to run when an open position is available. You can also attend monthly Board of Trustee meetings and share your comments or concerns during public comment. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month and start at 7:00 p.m. in the meeting room on the lower level of the library. During budget season, you can also support the library at Town budget meetings.

LONDONDERRY LEACH LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES Minutes of November 1, 2023

Page 10 of 18

Town departments including the library will be presenting their budgets for fiscal year 2024-2025 on Saturday, November 4 starting at 9:00 a.m. at Town Hall.

If you are interested in becoming a Friend of the Library and volunteering your time at fundraising events, book sales, and programs, then I encourage you to pick up an application and join today. The next meeting is on Monday, November 13 at 1:00 p.m. at the library. All are welcome.

If you are unable to volunteer your time as a trustee or friend, there are other ways you can help your library: visit the library, sign up for a library card, borrow physical or digital materials, check out a museum pass, attend a program, use library computers and databases, take advantage of our reference services, purchase an item from the book sale, or tell a friend about library services and programs. All of this helps us communicate the value of your library.

Sincerely,
Erin Matlin
Leach Library Director

- New Museum Passes at Leach Library

Leach Library is excited to announce two new museum passes! Patrons can now visit the Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum in Warner, NH, and, thanks to a generous donation from the Friends of the Leach Library, patrons can also visit the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, MA at discounted rates. For more information and to reserve a pass, visit the "Museum Pass" page on the library's website or call (603) 432-1132.

- Friends of the Leach Library GMILCS Fundraiser

The Friends of the Leach Library are hosting a fundraiser to help offset the onboarding cost to join the Greater Manchester Integrated Library Cooperative System (GMILCS). The fundraiser will begin on Wednesday, November 1 and continue through Saturday, December 16.

Stop by the library's main desk to purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win local restaurant gift cards or a framed painting donated by one of the Friends! Monetary donations are also welcome by cash or check (payable to "Friends of the Leach Library"). For additional information, please call Erin Matlin, Library Director, at 603-432-1132.

- Leach Library Children's Room Mural Contest

The Leach Library, Londonderry Arts Council, and Friends of the Leach Library are excited to announce an opportunity for a local artist to have their work featured for children and families to enjoy in the Leach Library Children's Room.

LONDONDERRY LEACH LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES Minutes of November 1, 2023

Page 11 of 18

Applications will be accepted through November 30, 2023. Eligible artists include New Hampshire residents ages 16 and older, but applications from Londonderry residents will be considered first. The contest winner will receive a \$500 stipend to be paid in two installments. A winner tentatively will be selected and notified in January 2024, and installation may be scheduled to begin in February 2024.

Visit the Leach Library website for the full contest details and application, or pick up an application packet at the library.

- Drop-In Tech Help

Curious about reserving library materials online from home? Want to learn how to access our various databases and digital collections? Looking to get started with Libby and Hoopla? Need help navigating a new device? The Leach Library reference staff has you covered! We are here to provide one-on-one assistance tailored to your technology-related needs.

No appointment is necessary. Stop in any Thursday between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Please note the library will be closed on Thursday, November 23. For more information or to make an appointment for another time, please call the library at (603) 432-1132.

- Tinker Time

Join Leach Library staff on Saturday, November 4 at 10:00 a.m. for Tinker Time. A variety of toys and games from the Library of Things will be provided for children to try. Registration is recommended and begins on Saturday, October 28. To register, visit the library's online calendar or call (603) 432-1127.

- Apple Byte Tournament

Teens and tweens are invited to an intro to e-sports video game tournament on Saturday, November 4 from 12:00 – 3:00 p.m. in the Leach Library Meeting Room.

During this program, students ages 9-18 will play Rocket League in a series of rounds on the Nintendo Switch platform. Tournament style and lineup will be announced at the start of the tournament. Door prizes and awards will be handed out to players while supplies last.

This program is free and open to the public. Registration is required and begins on Saturday, October 28. To register, please visit the library's online calendar or call (603) 432-1132.

- Little Sprouts Baby Lapsit

On Tuesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. from November 7 through December 12, Leach Library will offer a story time program for babies 0-18 months old. This introduction to story time is a great opportunity for your littlest sprouts to learn to

LONDONDERRY LEACH LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES Minutes of November 1, 2023

Page 12 of 18

interact with you and others in a new environment, as well as to begin to follow along with songs, dances, and finger movements.

Registration is required and begins one week before each session. To register, visit the library's online calendar or call (603) 432-1127.

- Wiggle Worms Story Time
On Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. from November 7 through December 12, toddlers ages 2-3 years old and their caregivers are invited to the Leach Library for story time with songs, rhymes, books, and more.

Registration is required and begins one week before each session. To register, visit the library's online calendar or call (603) 432-1127.

- Bookworms Story Time
On Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. from November 8 through December 13, Leach Library will offer story time for preschoolers ages 3-5 years old. Bookworms will focus on preschoolers learning more about words, numbers, and concepts through stories, songs, rhymes, and games. The program will also include a simple craft to promote developing fine motor skills.

Registration is required and begins one week before each session. To register, visit the library's online calendar or call (603) 432-1127.

- Crafternoon
Drop in to Crafternoon, a monthly 90-minute meet-up for crafters at the Leach Library! On Wednesday, November 8 at 4:00 p.m., bring your own craft project and supplies, and work alongside other local crafters. No registration is required. For more information, call the library at (603) 432-1132.

- Craft Time
On Monday, November 13 at 4:30 p.m., kid crafters are invited to the Leach Library to paint a fall suncatcher in the meeting room. Crafts will be provided, and staff will be available to offer assistance. Registration is required and begins on Tuesday, November 6. To register, visit the library's online calendar or call (603) 432-1127.

- Pumpernickel Puppets
Leach Library will be hosting a very special visit from Pumpernickel Puppets on Wednesday, November 15 at 4:30 p.m. Enjoy a performance of The Three Billy Goats Gruff and The Lion and the Mouse followed by a demonstration of the behind-the-scenes process of puppetry.

LONDONDERRY LEACH LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES Minutes of November 1, 2023

Page 13 of 18

This program is recommended for children ages 3 and older. Registration is required and begins on Wednesday, November 8. To register, visit the library's online calendar or call (603) 432-1127.

- Space Rangers
Get ready to blast off into a new adventure on Thursday, November 16 from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. in the Leach Library Meeting Room. During this one-hour, space-themed program, students ages 9-14 will explore different space science topics through hands-on activities and games. Registration is required and begins on Thursday, November 9. To register, visit the library's online calendar or call the library at (603) 432-1132.
- An Evening of Native American History with Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum
Come to the Leach Library on Thursday, November 16 at 6:30 p.m. to learn about Native American history and culture. A representative from the Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum will take us through seven different regions with a display of artifacts, a PowerPoint presentation, and a question and answer session. Registration is required and begins on Thursday, November 9. To register, visit the library's online calendar or call the library at (603) 432-1132.
- Tiny Art Painting
Adults and teens are invited to let their imaginations soar and brushes run free at the Leach Library on Saturday, November 18 at 11:30 a.m. to paint a tiny canvas! Fun will be had, paint will be poured, and art will be made. Registration is limited to 24 participants and begins on Friday, November 10. To register, visit the library's online calendar or call the library at (603) 432-1132.
- Dungeons and Dragons Dragoneers Club
Calling all teen and tween adventurers! Join the Dragoneers Club for a standalone quest on Monday, November 20 from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. in the Leach Library Meeting Room. All experience levels welcome! Registration is required and begins on Monday, November 13. To register, visit the library's online calendar or call the library at (603) 432-1132.
- Block by Block Coding Club
On Wednesday, November 29 from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m., students in grades 4-8 will be able to explore a variety of coding exercises and programs including using screen-free coding robots, independent online coding, and other guided activities online. This program is open to participants ages 9-14. Registration is required and begins on Wednesday, November 22. To register, visit the library's online calendar or call (603) 432-1132.
- Duplo Budding Builders
Join the Leach Library staff on Thursday, November 30 at 10:00 a.m. for a meeting of Duplo Budding Builders. Participants will create using larger Duplo

LONDONDERRY LEACH LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES Minutes of November 1, 2023

Page 14 of 18

blocks. This program is designed for younger Lego enthusiasts ages 0-5. Registration is required and begins on Wednesday, November 22. To register, visit the library's online calendar or call (603) 432-1127.

- Building Buddies
Join the Leach Library staff on Thursday, November 30 at 4:30 p.m. for a Lego program designed for ages 6 and up. Each month, there will be a fun theme and time to create using the library's Legos. Registration is required and begins on Wednesday, November 22. To register, visit the library's online calendar or call (603) 432-1127.
- DIY Glitter Ornaments
Come to the Leach Library on Monday, December 4 at 6:30 p.m. to create your very own DIY glitter ornament. Your sparkly creation will be sure to bring some pizzazz to your home! Registration is limited to 25 participants and begins on Monday, November 27. To register, visit the library's online calendar or call (603) 432-1132.
- Teen Craft: Perler Beads
Teens and tweens are invited for a study break in the Leach Library Meeting Room on Tuesday, December 5 from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. During this program, an assortment of Perler Beads and patterns will be on hand to help crafters create a piece to take home. Registration is required and begins on Tuesday, November 28. To register, visit the library's online calendar or call (603) 432-1132.
- Story Time with Santa
Santa will be stopping by Leach Library on Thursday, December 7 at 4:00 p.m. for a very special story time. Enjoy stories from Santa as he takes time out from his busy holiday preparations for a visit. Registration is required and begins on Thursday, November 30. To register, visit the library's online calendar or call (603) 432-1127.
- "Library After Dark" Movie Night
On Friday, December 8 at 6:00 p.m., Leach Library will host an after-hours movie night in the main reading room! Join eight-year-old Kevin McCallister as he fend for himself over the holidays in Home Alone (rated PG). Pizza and refreshments will be served while supplies last, and raffle prizes will be provided. Registration is required and begins on Friday, December 1. To register, visit the library's online calendar or call (603) 432-1132.
- A Very Merry Book Discussion
Do you love cozy Christmas romances? Then this is the book discussion for you! Come to the library on Monday, December 18 at 11:30 a.m. to discuss Debbie Macomber's novel *The Christmas Spirit*. Cocoa and cookies will be served.

LONDONDERRY LEACH LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES Minutes of November 1, 2023

Page 15 of 18

Registration is limited to 15 participants and begins on Monday, November 13. To register, visit the library's online calendar or call (603) 432-1132. Copies of the book will be available to check out at the library's main desk.

Meetings and Trainings

- 10/10/2023 – Erin attended a Friends of the Library Meeting.
- 10/16/2023 – Erin attended the Town Council Meeting.
- 10/18/2023 – Erin, Matt and Donna attended the joint program we did with the Derry Public Library.
- 10/19/2023 – Erin attended the Joint Loss Management Meeting.
- 10/25/2023 – Erin held a Department Head Meeting for the Leach Library Staff.
- 10/26/2023 – Erin attended the Budget Committee Meeting at Town Hall.
- 10/27/2023 – Erin attended a ULAC meeting at the Lebanon Public Library.
- 10/30/2023 – Erin had a meeting with Chuck Nuskey, Chair of the Greater Derry Londonderry Chamber.

Staffing Update

Nothing at this time.

Assistant Director's Report:

Technical Services

During October, the library staff added 537 materials to the collection.

Children's Room Mural Contest with the Londonderry Arts Council

The mural contest is open through November 30, 2023. Details are available on the library's website under "News and Announcements". Application packets can also be picked up at the library's main desk.

Public Photocopier

Since the meeting in October, the lease paperwork has been signed for the new public photocopier. The photocopier has been delivered, but the new coin box was backordered. Both are expected to be installed and available for use in the next couple weeks.

Department Head Reports:

Erin Matlin distributed written reports from each department head providing updates on their respective departments.

Old Business:

- Public Copier Quote
Donna Plante shared an update during the Assistant Director's Report.

LONDONDERRY LEACH LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES Minutes of November 1, 2023

Page 16 of 18

- ALA Membership

At the October meeting, Jan McLaughlin offered to draft a letter to ALA for the Board to review. The Board will revisit the discussion at the December meeting.

- GMILCS Update

Betsy McKinney asked if books in the collection are factored into the cost for GMILCS. Erin Matlin confirmed that every book in the collection comes with a cost for the library's GMILCS membership. Erin explained that cost is a reason why the library needs to be careful of the collection's size.

Donna Plante shared an update regarding the estimated onboarding cost for joining GMILCS. The data migration from the library's current system to the new system will be less costly than initially anticipated. The updated onboarding estimate is \$24,300. With this revision, Donna Plante and Erin Matlin asked the Board to confirm their funding commitment. A discussion ensued.

Christine Fitzgerald asked for clarification on the two costs. Donna Plante confirmed the onboarding estimate is a one-time cost. The annual fee for membership dues was estimated to be approximately \$41,000.

A **motion** was made by Betsy McKinney to commit to contributing \$17,500 from the Trustees' account for the GMILCS onboarding cost. The **motion was seconded** by Kim Bears. All in attendance accepted the motion, **motion carried**.

- Budget FY25

Erin Matlin distributed an updated FY25 budget and a draft of the FY25 library budget presentation to be presented on Saturday, November 4 at Town Hall starting at 9:00 a.m. Erin Matlin stated that this year she focused on what each department does and staff responsibilities. She also shared that the presentation this year will include patron visit statistics, GMILCS information, and library outreach services.

Betsy McKinney asked if the solar panels have been considered to add to the library. Erin Matlin stated that she will start exploring information on installing panels.

New Business:

- Holiday Gift for Staff

Erin Matlin presented the option to purchase library apparel as a holiday gift for the staff this year instead of a traditional holiday luncheon. The apparel would cost approximately \$474, which is equivalent to the budget for lunch. A discussion ensued.

LONDONDERRY LEACH LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES Minutes of November 1, 2023

Page 17 of 18

The Board agreed to purchase library apparel for the staff holiday gift from the Trustees' account.

- Holiday Gift for Departments

Donna Plante presented four options for holiday gifts to Town departments that have assisted the library this year. A discussion ensued.

The Board agreed to purchase cookies from Lush Confections in Derry for \$491.00 from the Trustees' account.

- Other Business

Christine Fitzgerald asked if meeting recordings are posted online. Erin Matlin responded that meeting recordings are not posted online and are only kept until the meeting minutes are approved.

Christine Fitzgerald asked if Erin or the Board will respond to an email received regarding a donation. Erin Matlin stated she will respond and copy all Board members.

Non Public Session:

Enter Non Public Session

Chair Betsy McKinney requested a roll call vote to enter Non Public Session pursuant RSA 91-A: 3 II, subparagraph (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant.

Roll Call Vote: Aye, Betsy McKinney; Aye, Kim Bears; Aye, Christine Fitzgerald; Aye, Carol Introne; Aye, Helen Palmieri.

The Board invited Director Erin Matlin, Assistant Director Donna Plante, and Head of Circulation Services Megan Donovan into the Non Public Session.

The Board entered Non Public Session at 8:25 p.m.

Exit Non Public Session

Chair Betsy McKinney requested a motion to exit Non Public Session. Betsy McKinney made a **motion** at 8:40 p.m. to exit Non Public Session. The **motion** was **seconded** by Kim Bears. Board's **vote:** 7-0-0 to exit.

LONDONDERRY LEACH LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Minutes of November 1, 2023

Page 18 of 18

A **motion** was made by Betsy McKinney to seal the non public meeting minutes. The **motion was seconded** by Carol Introne. All in attendance accepted the motion, **motion carried**.

Adjourn:

A **motion** was made at 8:41 p.m. by Helen Palmieri to adjourn the meeting. The **motion was seconded** by Carol Introne. All in attendance accepted the motion, **motion carried**.

Notes by: Megan Donovan, Donna Plante

Minutes Typed by: Donna Plante

Date: November 1, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Plante
Assistant Director and Head of Technical Services