

**NORTH KINGSTOWN FREE LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

**February 14, 2022**

**PRESENT WERE:** Varuna Abeywardane, Rini Georgekutty, Dianne Izzo, Dan Humbyrd, Martha Parks, Elizabeth Suvvari, Lori Vernon, and Susan Aylward. Guests: Jennifer Boettger (Deputy Director Interim), Kathy McGregor (Friends of the Library representative) and Tom Sgouros (NKFL Corporation member-at-large)

- 1. Call to Order-** The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the North Kingstown Free Library held on Monday, February 14, 2022, in virtual form only via Zoom, was called to order by Board Chair Elizabeth Suvvari at 7:04 p.m.
- 2.** Pursuant to RIGL 42-46-6 (c) Notice of this meeting has been posted on the Secretary of State's website.
- 3. Approval of minutes of the January 10, 2022 regular meeting –** The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2022 meeting as amended on a motion made by Dan Humbyrd, seconded by Martha Parks.
- 4. FY 2023 Budget—**Acting Director Aylward presented the FY 2023 budget, which includes spending cuts of over 28%, primarily in the areas of personnel: not filling a vacant full-time position; and of library collections: reducing spending judiciously in all formats. In order to balance spending and revenues, the FY 2023 budget also includes a request for a 6% increase in tax support. After thoughtful discussion, the Board voted unanimously to approve this FY 2023 budget so that it can be submitted to the Town Manager in advance of the February 28<sup>th</sup> submission deadline specified by the Town Charter on a motion by Rini Georgekutty, seconded by Varuna Abeywardane.
- 5. Director's Report: Updates and Questions—**Since the Acting Director's report was largely focused on background information for the budget decision, the Board did not have further questions on any of the updates supplied therein.
- 6. Champlin Grant 2019 (Library Redecoration Project)—**Acting Director Aylward reported that contractor Buddy Trinkle has received a check in the amount of \$95,000, paid from the North Kingstown Free Library Corporation bank account, where the Champlin Grant funds are being held. This represents the first of three payments for the project. Mr. Trinkle has ordered the carpet and window treatments and is on schedule to begin the project in early April.
- 7. Staffing Update—**Board Chair Liz Suvvari acknowledged that during the Executive Session on personnel matters held at the January 10, 2022 meeting, she was given the authority, by unanimous vote of the Board of Trustees, to discuss the previous director's situation with the Town Manager and to make whatever personnel decisions she and the Town Manager deemed necessary to resolve that situation. Subsequently, Liz, acting on behalf of the Board, accepted Director Brennan's resignation. On January 28, 2022, Mr. Brennan and Rini Georgekutty, representing the Board, signed the Resignation Agreement that was drawn up by the Town's labor attorney. Susan Aylward has agreed to serve as Acting Director for an indefinite period, within the rules of the Municipal Employees' Retirement System.
- 8. Public Comment—**John McDermott asked a question about how the Willett and Davisville libraries will appear in the town's FY 2023 budget document. Acting Director Aylward did not yet have that information.
- 9. Adjournment—**The Trustees voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. on a motion by Lori Vernon, seconded by Dianne Izzo.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Aylward, Acting Director