**Franklin Public Library**

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**October 23, 2023**

**Present**: Charleen Belcher, Kathleen Gerwatowski, Amanda Rabbitt, Barbara Steele, Alison Wallace of the Board, and Library Director Felicia Oti.

**Call to Order**: Charleen called the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

**Public Comment**: None

**Minutes:** The minutes of the September meeting were approved as amended.

**Report of the Board Members:**

**Barbara:** Barbara participated in the ‘take and make’ candle activity. Although she made an error in creation, the concept was beautiful.

**Kathleen:** Kathleen shared an article from Library Journal about saving money by using your public library. Felicia commented that the library staff could create a flyer showing the free resources available to the community.

**Amanda:** Amanda congratulated Felicia and the Franklin Public Library on Banned Books Week. She noted that the library always supports inclusivity and diversity. Amanda also suggested that individual library staff members could be highlighted for their contributions in the monthly library news.

**Charleen:** Charleen **a**ttended the Friends of Franklin Library meeting. At the meeting, the Friends approved revised bylaws. They also provided a summer reading update, including the Emily Franklin author event which was well-attended. Their participation at the harvest festival was successful, and they gave out 400 books. Charleen noted that a budget was not presented; although she has informed the Friends that a budget is required. Lisa Rein will stay on as president until June 2024. The Friends funded $500 for the teen gift baskets, $150 adult summer reading, and $300 for the Emily Franklin event. The Friends also expressedinterest in another brick sale.

**Library Director’s Report**: The Dean College partnership is moving forward. The goal is to open the College to Franklin. Felicia shared a flyer invitation for coffee and conversation.

The first ESL training was held last Saturday, and 16 tutors attended. A second training will be held October 24th. Volunteers need to attend only one training. There are approximately 70 people requesting ESL tutoring. In addition, 46 newcomers at the hotel have signed up for ESL. Felicia said it needs to be classroom style at this location. Caleigh suggested that parents attend ESL while she is holding story hour for children at the hotel.

A new library catalog is coming to the Minuteman Library Network. A soft introduction has been launched. Vicki adapted a flyer for the Franklin community which provides a visual display. Felicia says it’s simpler and more straightforward than the current catalog.

**Next meeting:** The next meeting will be held on November 27, 2023.

**Agenda for next month:** At the next meeting, we will learn about the winter town wide read, and receive an ESL and library staff update.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Gerwatowski