



TOWN OF HUDSON

Library Board of Trustees



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Hudson Library Board of Trustees Special Public Meeting Minutes April 27, 2017

Present:

Trustee Robin Rodgers, Chair
Trustee Kara Roy, Treasurer
Trustee Linda Kipnes, Vice Chair
Trustee Barbara Blue, Secretary
Trustee Arlene Creeden
Charles Matthews, Director

Called To Order:

Trustee Rodgers called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. and Trustee Blue led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Input:

Children's Librarian, Betsey Martel, gave the Board of Trustees postcards and notes from patrons expressing their desire to have hamster remain in the Library.

Crystal Perry – My children enjoy coming to the Library to see Blueberry and there has to be a compromise that would allow him to stay.

Victoria Ciancetta– Most children don't have pets and having Blueberry at the Library is a great way for kids to have an opportunity to see them and how they are cared for.

Lillian Meyers – This is a situation where there can be a compromise. Notification by a patron who might be allergic to Blueberry, the day before visit, in order to have Blueberry removed from the area might be a solution. She would love to see the children to have an opportunity to interact with small animals.

Cole Worth – Blueberry is educational for people who don't have pets. Pets are expensive. Blueberry should be back in the Library because he is not getting the attention he is used to getting in the Library.

Jonah Libby– I'm allergic to animals so I can't have pets at home. It is so nice to come to the Library and see Blueberry because he is exciting.

Angela Libby - I home school my children and they love coming to the Library to see Blueberry because, as her son has said, "books are not exciting, but Blueberry is". Betsey has always taken care of patrons in the Library and there really should be a compromise.

Jennifer Ceballos – Having Blueberry in the Library helps kids learn about hamsters and I know it would upset the children if he were not here.

Jennifer Schneider – I have pets at home and coming to the Library to see Blueberry and see how well he is taken care of has taught my children to take better care of their own pets. They are more responsible and more aware of their pet's needs.

Trustee Comments:

Trustee Roy thanked everyone for coming. She asked for clarification as to how this issue came about. Trustee Roy was informed about a Thumbs Down comment in the Hudson Litchfield News about having a hamster in the Library. She was informed that this issue was discussed at the 5/18/15 Board of Trustees meeting, but there was never a motion presented nor a vote taken on the issue of pets in the Library. Trustee Roy stated the Board and the Library staff have an obligation to protect the Library as well as the community and how to safeguard against a pet escaping.

Trustee Rodgers – Spoke with Town Attorney who indicated a policy or a definite outline should be drawn up to permanently address having animals in the Library. Trustee Rodgers fears it will open the door for everyone to want to bring in their pets and where does the line get drawn. Blueberry is wonderful, but Board will be responsible at the end of the day should something happen.

Trustee Creeden – Will get in touch with insurance company regarding a Library pet biting a patron, etc. Trustee Creeden had concerns about the cost and maintenance of Blueberry and was informed that both cost and maintenance will be handled by the Children's Librarian, Betsey Martel. The current policy in the Library is, "No Pets".

Trustee Blue – Asked about other Libraries and what their policies are regarding pets in the Library. She was informed by Director Matthews that it is fairly common and some Libraries even have cats. She stated that perhaps the pet can be placed somewhere else in the Library if a patron comes in who has an allergy.

Trustee Kipnes – Asked if children with allergies were not coming to the Library due to Blueberry being at the Library. She was informed by Betsey that there have been incidences where children were not coming.

Betsey Martel was asked to address the Board supporting her decision to bring Blueberry into the Library. She informed the Board that Director Matthews was not asked and she was the one who made the decision to bring Blueberry to the Library. The children love him. He has a secure cage that the children cannot open and Blueberry cannot escape from. Since she is the owner of Blueberry, all costs and maintenance associated with his care is her responsibility. No child is allowed to hold Blueberry. She has also started a Blog for Blueberry, Blueberry's Book Suggestions, as well many other programs featuring him. The children love following him online as well as in the Library. He is quiet and there is no smell. She spoke with a Veterinarian who said that with such a large room and limited exposure a child would need to be in the room approximately 6 hrs. before reacting if he/she were to have an allergy.

Non-Public Session:

*Trustee Roy moved to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA91-A:3 II. (a)(d).
Seconded by Trustee Kipnes.*

Chair called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 5-0

Enter Non-Public Session at 1:12 p.m.

Exit Non-Public Session at 1:38 p.m.

Returned to Public Session at 1:39 p.m.

Motion by Trustee Roy to create interim policy on raises: Employees will be considered for a \$0.25 raise at their 6 month anniversary in their position. The Director will inform the Board of Trustees about the employee's performance in the relevant time period. The Board will vote on the proposed raise in the non-public session of either a regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meeting or a specially convened Board of Trustees meeting. This policy will expire upon the implementation of a step pay scale. Seconded by Trustee Creeden.

Chair called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 5-0

Motion by Trustee Roy to give Kristen Paradise a \$0.25/hour raise. Seconded by Trustee Creeden.

Chair called for a roll call vote. Motion passes 5-0

Next Meeting:

Our next regularly scheduled meeting is Wednesday, May 17, 2017

Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Cicia
Administrative Assistant