

Warner Free Trustees Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 5, 2023 at 6:15pm
Held virtually via Zoom pursuant to Governor Healey's Orders

Trustees Present: Alison Thornton (Secretary), Sheila Simollardes (Events), Steve Peisch (Publicity), Michael Kilian Chair)

Absent: Billy Salter

Member of Public: Seth Trotz

Meeting called to order at 6:19 pm

Review of Minutes of Prior Meeting: Discussion of a few typos and how to correctly declare spirit of our group. Mary Mazzio not in the price range we requested currently, may be worth revisiting.

Steve moved to approve the minutes as amended. Alison seconded the motion, Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of March 31, Gretchen Schmelzer presentation

Favorable impressions across the board.

Billy paid her following event.

Distribution of her books around town to be done. Locations discussed.

Interactive was a good component.

Documents and Google Drive:

Sharing documents policy

Google drive contents: minutes, trust deed, WFL logo, roles of various trustees positions, Sign up sheet to get on our email, for placement on events.

Steve has access to Google Drive, Alison will transfer her access to Mike prior to departure.

Mike raised question of why can't we allow access to all trustees and make docs read only?

Should we remove Eventbrite from our email?

Upcoming 2023-24 season:

Sept 15 Commonwealth Fusion

Mike gave Kristen Cullen a punch list of topics to be covered in presentation. Talk to be technical but user friendly for general public. Mike is working on a marketing paragraph.

Oct 27 Roxana Trabulsi

Sheila and Steve have her marketing materials

Feb 9, 2024 Suzanne Buell – Steve

March 22, 2024 Barbara Berensen - Sheila

Prof at Harvard Law, passionate about women's wrote several books on Women's suffrage in Mass.

Dudley Laufman – Steve is meeting with him on Saturday. Envision having an interactive demo. Dudley is a folklorist and caller. He will talk about what he has done over the years.

Available dates are January and April (April is available except the first Friday- will avoid school break)

Waiting on Billy to find out about status of John Hanson Mitchell.

June 10th Blurbs and marketing info and photo due to Sheila for Press Ad and flyer

Marketing of events:

Ad for Harvard Press

Town Common Sign issues –

Tweak sign holder for better sign support.

Staples may be able to make a sign for less money

Image on sign versus readability consensus was keep image and
Increase readability.

NextDoor Harvard

Facebook

Welcome Wagon being restarted. We can contribute a flyer about what the Warner is and where you can find the info. Mike will put together a trifold to add to the Welcome Wagon mailings.

Other Business:

Mike discussed the website he has been working on. The purpose is to allow central location for all things Warner, including list of current and former events. Has videos of recorded events available. Consolidates information on speakers for anyone who wants to see it. Allows viewers to click on link that will get them to presenters own information. Plan is to have the link to the site available through the Town Website. Public can sign up for WFL email list on the site. Section for Warner Free bylaws and Trust Docs. Separate section for Trustees only. Place for editing information on presenters. Streamlined email blast can be sent out for individual presenters from the data entered. Won't be ready by June, but should be ready to go by the first event of Fall 2023. To increase amount of historical data about WFL past events reach out to Harvard Historical Society. Hope is that in the long run this will make everything central and user friendly. Suggestion to add a search function.

Brief discussion of transfer of Website "ownership" if Mike should retire from board. Mike is willing to run the website he created but also is open to someone else coming taking it over, if they felt strongly about it. If someone else wanted to create their own, they could. Mike feels that this would be a more expensive option for the Trust.

Website plan was well received by all those present.

Steve left meeting at 7:12.

Open positions:

Three candidates for 3-year spot.

One candidate for 2-year spot.

Billy to bring treasurers report to next meeting.

Sheila moved to be paid estimated \$20 for dry cleaning of this season's table cloths.

Alison seconded.

Motion passed unanimously by three members still present.

Next meeting:

Can we have it in person or is hybrid possible? Sheila will ask for clarification from Town Hall.

Tuesday, May 2nd 2023 next meeting 6:15pm format TBD

Sheila moved to adjourn the meeting. Alison seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously by all Trustees present.

Meeting adjourned at 7:24pm.