Manchester Library Board
Meeting Minutes for January 13, 2020

Members: Miriam Byroade, Heather Doucette, Ashley Odell, Jessica Scorso, Mary Fischer, Grace Cedrone, Karl Hasel, Joyce Hood. Not present: Melissa Pattacini.

Also present: Doug McDonough, Norma Nevers

Miriam Byroade called the meeting to order at 6:32pm

Election of officers: Miriam Byroade re-elected as chair
Heather Doucette elected as secretary
Jessica Scorso elected as vice chair

Minutes adopted from the meeting of November 18, 2019.

Librarian’s Report: There are several new projects underway or about to get underway. The "bookmarked" subscription boxes program has started up with 20 for adults- a new release book will go out with a bookmark, nice paper, and some other small materials. All of the first set of 20 boxes for adults were filled within four hours of posting on social media. Adults will have an optional meet-up where they discuss the book off-site. There will be a new book selection each month. Bookmarked boxes for teens and children will be coming out soon (also plans for 20 each). For children there will be a social meet-up later in May. New Children's book bags of Board Books for very young children will be circulated out of Whiton. The wintertime Saturday afternoon programs at Whiton have been well attended for children. Summer reading program's theme for this summer will be along the lines of fairy tales, mythology, and/or fantasy themed (initial planning is still in the works). English as a Second Language café programming is ongoing for both adults and children. There is a topic discussed at each session and a book that the participants can take home with them to keep. Tours of the library are part of this program so that participants become familiar with all of the resources and services that are available through the library. There will be a bilingual storytime in the first week of February. There have been discussions with the Land Trust to create a story trail on the Botti Farms property on Bush Hill Road.

Staff member Michelle D. will be sent to the Public Library Association National Conference next month. The library and all of town government has been facing rising costs associated with minimum wage increases and rapidly increasing costs in medical plans and the library has requested an increase to cover this in next year’s budget. Our public library remains one of the most highly utilized in the State and continues to be strained to fulfill the needs of patrons within the confines of its very limited space. Circulated materials so far have been up a couple of percent from last year and holds steady at 4th in state for overall loans. In the recently released numbers for Fiscal Year 2019, Manchester is the library with the highest children's circulation in the state.
Old Business: None.

New Business: Doug circulated a discussion timeline for the necessity for Manchester Public Library improvements that dates back to 1998-1999. He also mentioned that three new members of the BOD will be touring the library building in the coming weeks.

Motion to adjourn at 7:10 pm.

Mary Fischer,
Secretary