

Sweetser Lecture Series

2022-2023 Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Wednesday, January 18, 2023 — 7:00 pm
Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 5 Bryant Street
(Meeting to Review Fall 2022 Lecture Series)

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order of Meeting (Sara)

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.

Secretary's Report

Faith read the minutes from the last meeting on September 7, 2022.
The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Lorraine reported on our financials as of December 31/2022. The report was approved.

Old Business

The only item of old business concerned storage of posters and the banner. Susan has the posters and Julie Scott may have the banner.

New Business

The first item of business was a discussion/evaluation of the Fall 2022 Series. Sara noted that she was not disappointed with the turn out, but it did seem that some people in our regular audience were still concerned about COVID and did not attend. Bad weather affected the Kate Clifford Larson lecture.

Discussion of Ticket Outlets

The ticket outlets we used this year were The Wakefield Item and Sweetbay Flowers. Very few tickets were sold at The Item on Albion Street, but Sweetbay Flowers sold most of the tickets. We would like to continue with them next year, but will look for another outlet instead of Wakefield Item. We discussed three other possible locations - The Reading Library, Whitelam Books in Reading, and the Book Oasis in Stoneham. David will ask at Whitelam Books.

Discussion of Fiscal Year

Since our fiscal year ends June 30, 2023, we will wait to disburse funds to our three charities until a bit later this year.

Discussion of Fall vs. Spring Series in 2023

Lorraine said ticket sales are difficult during the summer since people are on vacation. Susan said many of the patrons and benefactor sales were late coming in. This made it difficult to plan the program layout. Helen thought that we would need two years with the Fall schedule in order to really evaluate Fall vs. Spring timing.

The Committee voted unanimously to keep the Fall schedule in 2023. We will continue discussions on the days of the week for lectures and possible new venues and whether we should still plan three lectures or reduce the schedule to two instead.

Before the next series we need to clarify custodial duties since they varied from one lecture to another. We need to know what is expected of our committee and what the custodians will be setting up. David will check to see if Trudy Conley is still our contact or whether it's someone new.

Duty Changes going Forward

Lorraine is stepping down from the Treasurer's position after many years. We thank her for her many years of difficult work in her role as treasurer. She will continue as a member on the SLSAC. David Miller will take this over. Lorraine and David have been meeting to turn these duties over to David who is anxious to get on board.

Sara is stepping down from her role as Lead Director due to health reasons. She has been our expert leader for years. We will all miss her as our leader. However, she will continue finding speakers and communicating with them. Julie Scott has agreed to be co-chair. Susan Kilkelly has agreed to work with Julie.

Other

We discussed asking the Town Council if there was someone who could help us with technical issues.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2023.