

Leach Public Library Board of Trustees Special Meeting May 29, 2019

The following were present: Doug Bouchard, Ed and Adrienne Helm, David Lahar, Danielle Ingalls, Molly Veysey, Gretchen Bittner, Robin Kay, Judy Jackson, Phillis Mosher, Laurie Green-Holland, Evelyn Kennison. The meeting began at 6:00 pm.

The purpose of the meeting was to hear about Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Doug Bouchard, from Greater Barton Arts, explained that Ed and Adrienne Helm had contacted him about this program. He then spoke with Town Clerk Danielle Ingalls, and wanted to get together with the Library Trustees. Adrienne stated that she has roots in Irasburg since her grandparents lived here years ago. She explained that, through the Imagination Library, a child receives one book per month from birth to age five. The book is mailed to each child in his/her own name and the cost is \$26 per year per child.

Adrienne and Ed stressed that a great deal of a child's brain development occurs in the first five years. It has been shown that exposure to books and having someone read to a child improves school performance in later years.

The Helms are willing to give \$2,000 to cover the cost for the first year of this program. Ed explained that there are steps to go through and he will provide necessary information. After the first year, the town or library would pay the costs. Only children living in Irasburg would be able to enroll in the Imagination Library, although parents can enroll children themselves. It was stressed that every child is eligible to be a part of this program. They hope this will be something that can be done in our town.

A discussion about Imagination Library followed. Judy mentioned that this is something the trustees need to talk about before making this commitment. The library sponsors other programs which need continued funding. It was agreed that careful due diligence must be done before we decide to take part in this program.

The meeting ended at 6:45 pm.

Submitted by Evelyn Kennison