

Abington Public Library
Board of Library Trustees

Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2022

Called to Order

7:04pm Attendees: Henry DiCarlo, Chair
Betty Henderson, Vice Chair
Laura Nuttall, Recording Secretary
Gail Bergin
Mary Gillis
Gerry Haas
Barbara McLaughlin
Carrie Murray
Jake O'Neill
Deborah Grimmett, Library Director

THIS MEETING WAS HELD IN A HYBRID MANNER WITH SOME MEMBERS ON ZOOM AND OTHER MEMBERS IN PERSON AT THE LIBRARY.

Minutes of the meeting held on November 29,2021 were reviewed by the Board.

MOTION to approve the November 29,2021 minutes was made by Barbara, seconded by Betty and accepted unanimously with two abstentions.

Chairman's Report

-Carrie and Gerry are running for re-election. If anyone knows someone who is interested in running for the open position, please let Deb or Henry know.

-Vouchers need to be signed.

-The Charter Review Committee is hard at work looking for issues and clarifications.

Library Director's Report

-Monthly Financial and Statistical Reports-Finances look good. The Salary Line is where it should be but at the end of the year State Aid will need to be used

because there has been a lot of training of new staff and coverage for sick shifts. The Book Line is looking good. November circulation was not as busy as normal, December was about normal. Class visits were going well. They will begin again in February.

-Friends Update-The Friends met on Monday. It was a small gathering, but they are planning another Book/Bake Sale for April 30,2022. The Mystery Book Club is going on Zoom for January and February as planned. Book Talk had seven members attending. The Friends are looking into an “Abington” product to sell. Membership drive started this week.

-OCLN Update-At the Members Council Meeting it was apparent that Library Directors are changing rapidly. Deb and Will are the “older” Directors. The Legislative Breakfast that is usually held in February is probably not going to happen this year.

Building Issues

-Roof Planning-Deb will be meeting with the Engineer and Town Manager on Thursday to go over all the plans for the roof. The bid is all ready to go for Town Meeting. The building will be open while the roof is being fixed. Work will not begin until the fall.

-Electrical Switches at Circ Desk-Andy is working to find commercial break switch to fix them.

-Heat Pump-The heat pump that broke around Halloween has been fixed and reinstalled. Both pumps are working correctly now.

-Other-Deb is still working on getting a water filling station to replace the bubbler.

-Other-The automatic snow melt has worked perfectly on the sidewalks around the Library in the last few storms.

-Current Library Issues

-Library Programs-Toddler Time starts next week with a maximum of ten in the group. Lego Club starts Wednesday. January 20, 2022, at 7:00 Gary Hylander is

scheduled to talk about Valley Forge. Barn Babies will be at the Library during February Vacation.

-FY23 Budget Reduction-The Finance Team has asked for a 5% reduction in the FY23 Budget. Deb has eliminated the Children's Library Assistant position from the budget and reduced the Book Budget. There is a meeting at the end of February with the Finance Team.

Old Business

-Hotspots-Sarah got all the Hotspots working and out to the public. So far, the patrons that have used them are very pleased.

-Yearbook Digitization-The yearbooks are back in the Library. Rockland is working on getting their yearbooks online. Whitman has their yearbooks online already.

-Logo and Website Status-The new logo is in progress. Deb has negotiated a contract with the company. The website update will include some cosmetic upgrades to the desktop site and a major update to the mobile site. Deb and the staff have been looking at websites to see which ones they like and who the web designer is. The Wrentham Library has a nice website. The website will not be done until the logo is complete.

-Kanopy Streaming Video Service-Kanopy is similar to Hoopla for streaming videos. The service started around Christmas and there were 27 videos checked out at the cost of \$71.00. There are over 27,000 videos to be streamed. Patron feedback has been favorable.

-Strategic Plan for FY24-FY29 Planning-A diverse group of Library users needs to be put together to form a committee for the Strategic Plan. Deb is going to put together a survey in February through Survey Monkey. The first meeting of the committee should be at the end of March or beginning of April.

New Business

-Revolving Fund Articles for Town Meeting-**MOTION to approve the Revolving Fund Articles for Town Meeting was made by Gail, seconded by Carrie and accepted unanimously.**

-Meeting Room Use-The Director of Public Health suggested that the Library, Town Hall and Senior Center go to appointment only status. Deb said no, the Library will stay open as long as the schools and businesses are open. Deb did pull out a few of the public computers to add space between patrons. The quilters cancelled their January and February meetings. The Girl Scouts meet in very small groups so they will still be meeting. **MOTION to approve the Meeting Room Policy was made by Jake, seconded by Mary and accepted unanimously.** Youth Art Month is in March and the question of whether or not there will be a reception has come up. Deb is going to decide on allowing them to have a reception at the end of February. The art will be displayed in the Library as it normally is so patrons and families can view the art any time.

-Gift in Memory of Sylvia Hofsepian-An open gift of \$500.00 has been made to the Library in Memory of Sylvia Hofsepian. Sylvia was a very active member of the Library community. She was instrumental in getting all the bar codes on the books at the old Library.

-Annual Town Report-The Annual Town Report is due February 18, 2022. If Board Members want anything specific added to the report, see Deb.

-Other-Would it be possible to get the Astronomy Program back this summer? Maybe have a town wide “dark night” to see the stars?

Next Meeting:

February 28,2022 at 7:00pm

Motion to adjourn at 8:12 pm was made by Gerry, seconded by Carrie and accepted unanimously.