

Abington Public Library
Board of Library Trustees

Meeting Minutes

October 15, 2018

Called to Order: 7:02pm

Attendees: Henry DiCarlo, Chairman
Betty Henderson, Vice Chairman
Laura Nuttall, Recording Secretary
Gerry Haas
Barbara McLaughlin
Carrie Murray
Jake O'Neill
Deborah Grimmitt, Library Director

Absent: Gail Bergin
Mary Gillis

Minutes of the meeting held on September 10, 2018 were reviewed by the Board.
MOTION to approve the September 10, 2018 minutes was made by Barbara, seconded by Gerry and accepted unanimously.

Chairman's Report

-Gordon Bates passed away. Gordon has been a big supporter of the Library and his wife Carrie has been the painter for the Library for a long time.

-Grace Avery Mackiewicz passed away. Grace's daughter Christina McMahon was a Trustee of the Library.

-Former Reference Librarian Marcie Walsh-O'Connor has been promoted to the position of Director of the Whitman Public Library. Best of Luck Marcie.

Library Director's Report

-Monthly Financial and Statistical Reports-In the budget line for Electricity there has been no money expended due to an issue with National Grid. All other finances are right where they should be. Circulation was up again in September.

People count was down probably due to the fact that the weather was so bad and that the soccer program is not at the Turf and Reilly Field any more.

-FY18 Financial Reports-Gift Account-A total of \$11,001.36 was spent from the Gift Account in FY18.

-Programming Update-A great turn out for Dr. Gary Hylander and the Frank Mandoza programs. Kids programs are off and running. Story Hours are full and going well.

-Friends of the Library-The Friends met in September and the topic of discussion was the Book Sale. The Book Sale will still be in April, but they are going to start taking books later so that the Copeland Room can be open for the APS Art Shows. The Friends are still looking for ways to consolidate the Book Sale. The quality and amount of donations to the Book Sale the last few years has not been good. Puzzles have been big sellers. The Friends are sponsoring a trip with the Cultural Council to the Nutcracker on December 2, 2018.

-Other-Weymouth Public Library has decided to do away with fines on all their materials. This decision was made because they are in the process of razing and rebuilding the Tufts Library. The APL will probably see an increase in patron visits from Weymouth. Another issue that Weymouth is dealing with is that there are few places for their Children's Story Hour. Deb has offered Copeland Room space for Weymouth programs. Deb has spoken with the Town Manager about doing away with some fines in Abington and he is ok with whatever decision is made. Rockland is also thinking about doing away with some fines. Whitman will not be doing away with fines because of the way their Revolving Account and Budget is set up.

Building Issues

-Town Energy Efficiency Project-Deb has not heard anything about the project. She will update the Board when she does.

-Parking Lot Paving-No date has been set for paving because new curbing is still needed for the small side parking lot.

-Reilly Field-trees-Reilly Field track is being resurfaced. The company that is doing the resurfacing needed to take down some trees that were overhanging the track. They contacted Deb to see if this was going to pose any problem with the Library. Deb and Henry went to the track to see which trees were going to be taken down and it is not going to have any impact on the Library.

Current Library Issues

-Impact of New School-Things have been very good so far this school year. The students coming in after school have been using the library positively. Only one student has been asked to leave because of disruptive behavior.

-Yearbook Digitization Project-Deb has not done any more with the project as of right now.

Old Business

-Reference Librarian Position-Three people have applied for the position. Deb is going to be interviewing the candidates next week.

-Director Salary Study-The Board discussed the Director's Salary Comparison data and concluded that an adjustment to the Director's salary needs to be made to keep Abington competitive with other area towns. **MOTION to increase the Director's Salary to \$76,500.00 was made by Jake seconded by Carrie and accepted unanimously.** Deb will now talk to the Town Manager to find out if the adjustment will be done as a one-time adjustment or a step increase.

-FY20 Budget- Deb is working on the FY20 Budget now, but has not heard from Town Hall as to when it needs to be submitted.

New Business

-*21Years-A Folded Flag*-Documentary Film Screening-The Abington Public Library will be one of four places in the area to show the documentary. It will be on Saturday, November 10, 2018 at 2:00pm, and should be well attended.

-Telescope Update-The telescope has been taken out eight times since November 2017. The last person returned it with a broken eye piece cover. Deb will be accepting the \$40.00 fine to fix the broken piece. Deb would like to have the South Shore Astronomical Society come back in March to do another program.

-Meeting Room Request-Deb has received an email request from an Educational Foundation of Real Estate Professionals that would like to hold a workshop for people that want to sell their homes. The catch is that anyone that wants to go to the workshop would have to register ahead of time with the company. The Board discussed the proposal and decided that if the company would not come and just do a program for whoever showed up then they should not be allowed to do it. Deb is going to reject the request because it seems that information will be collected for private gain which is in violation of the Meeting Room Policy.

-Community Preservation Act Funding Application for Sheila's Garden-The Application for Eligibility was accepted. The grant is for \$12,000.00 and the CPA Board thought it was a very good use of the money.

-Abington Reads 2019-Deb is looking for a non-fiction book for Abington Reads.

-Other-The APL has been delivering book to the Colony House Nursing Home for years. Over the last few months a number of books have disappeared to the tune of \$130.00. The patient population has changed a lot over the last few years and Colony House is not sure that they want to continue the program. She is going to reach out to the Director at the Nursing Home.

Next Meeting:

November 19, 2018 at 7:00pm

January 14, 2019 at 7:00pm

Motion to adjourn at 8:52pm was made by Gerry, seconded by Carrie and accepted unanimously.