

Abington Public Library  
Board of Library Trustees

Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2020

Called to Order: 7:01pm

Attendees: Henry DiCarlo, Chairman

Laura Nuttall, Recording Secretary

Gail Bergin

Mary Gillis

Gerry Haas

Barbara McLaughlin

Carrie Murray

Jake O'Neill

Deborah Grimmert, Library Director

Absent: Betty Henderson, Vice Chairman

Minutes of the meeting held on January 13, 2020 were reviewed by the Board.

**MOTION to approve the January 13, 2020 minutes was made by Mary, seconded by Gail and accepted unanimously with two abstentions.**

**Chairman's Report**

-Finance Committee Presentation Report-Deb and Henry presented the budget to the Finance Committee. There are a few new faces on the committee and there were some questions that they had. Deb was well prepared for the questions.

-Town Manager Search Update-No new news on the search for a Town Manager.

-Other-Henry read a thank-you card from the Norwell VNA and the Bergin Family.

**Library Director's Report**

-Monthly Financial and Statistical Reports-All money items are where they should be. The Building Maintenance and Repair Line still has money in it but it will be used up soon. Circulation and people count increased in 2019. Digital circulation has also steadily increased.

-Programming Update-This Saturday at 2:00pm is the Civil Rights Musical Program that the APL is hosting for Abington Reads. Deb is hoping to have a good crowd. Popular Fiction Book Club had 8 attendees last Wednesday. All the kid's programs are well attended. Attendance for all the programs has been trending up since Christmas. The Sean McCarthy and Owls programs were well attended.

-Friends of the Library-The Friends held a coffee hour and some new people joined the Friends group and attended their meeting today. The annual book sale will be April 23-25, 2020. Donations can be dropped off starting April 1, 2020.

-OCLN Update-The Legislative Breakfast will be held February 28, 2020 at 8:00am at the Whitman Public Library. Deb will be going as long as the carpet project is going ok. Representative Alyson Sullivan will be the Legislative host. OCLN Members Council Meeting will be at the APL on Thursday.

## **Building Issues**

-Town Energy Efficiency Project-Last week the replacement contractor came and worked for about 9 hours identifying and fixing problems. There are still a few remaining issues. The boiler is still running all the time. The contractor will be back next week and will begin the process of labeling all the VAV boxes.

-Carpeting-The movers are coming Tuesday and the carpet layers are coming Wednesday. Surplus reference stacks have been taken down and moved to the Dyer Library. Holds are being sent to Rockland Public Library starting today. Feedback from the public has been favorable. The Board took a look at the space where the stacks were removed and discussed new seating options.

-Emergency Lights and other Electrical Issues-All of the light and electrical issues have been taken care of.

-Plumbing Issues-There have been several small issues with the plumbing in the last few weeks. Nothing serious but Gouthro Plumbing has been to the building a lot to fix them.

-Other-There was a dead goose on Gliniewicz Way that was reported to Deb. Deb called over to the Town Hall and Nancy Hurst took care of reporting it.

-Other-The alarms went off again on Saturday. Henry was called and it was another false alarm. When the carpeting project is done Deb is going to have the alarm company come in and look at the system.

### **Current Library Issues**

-LSTA Grant Update-New England Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) will be at the APL on March 27, 2020 to look at the documents that need to be preserved. The yearbooks are getting ready to be sent to the BPL to get digitized. The APL will be sending yearbooks from 1956 to present. The Dyer Library will be sending the pseudo-yearbooks prior to 1956. The AHS has loaned the APL yearbooks that were missing from their collection.

-ELL Update-Deb met with Elizabeth Despres, the ELL co-coordinator for Abington Public Schools, to see how the Abington Public Library can assist the ELL community. They have decided to have the April ELL PAC meeting at the Library. Deb has been trying to purchase children's novels in Portuguese but they are very difficult to find and picture books are very expensive. Fall River has an extensive collection so the APL is going to reach out to them and see where they purchase them. Deb and the staff tried out the Mango software but it was not as good as they hoped. The Milton Public Library uses Pronunciator which is very popular. APL got a five-week trial to see to program. Pronunciator is also less expensive than Mango.

### **Old Business**

-FY21 Budget Submission-The FY21 Budget has been submitted. No word on any changes that the Finance Team might have.

-Community Preservation Act Story Garden Restore and Refresh-Nothing has changed since the last meeting.

-Annual Report-The Annual Report is due Friday. Deb is still working on it and will email it to the Board when it is finished.

-AED-The AED is at the Library. Deb is going to set up a training session with the Abington Fire Department when the Library is closed for the carpet project.

## **New Business**

-Soft Seating Re-upholstery-Henry recused himself and put Laura in charge of the discussion due to having done business with the company in the past. Deb has been in touch with Elaine Randolph of Randolph Upholstery and Interiors in Whitman. Along with the new carpet, the chairs in the Library will need to be re-upholstered. There are 12 chairs in the main space and 2 chairs in the Children's Room that need to be done. Deb has worked with Elaine to pick out fabric for the chairs that will complement the carpet. The total price is around \$12,500 and it will be paid from Trust Funds. **MOTION to approve the re-upholstery of the soft seating in the Library was made by Gail, seconded by Barbara and accepted unanimously with one abstention.**

-Children's Room Wooden Chair Refurbishment-Deb has been in touch with Prada Furniture Shop in Abington to refinish all the oak chairs in the Children's Room. It will cost about \$2,780 and be paid for by State Aid. **Motion to approve the refurbishment of the Children's Room chairs was made by Gerry, seconded by Carrie and accepted unanimously.**

-Donation of Excess Reference Stacks to the Dyer Memorial Library and Archive-The Reference Stack that were no longer needed at the APL were donated and moved to the Dyer Memorial Library.

-DPW-Thank You for Moving Excess Reference Stacks-A card was signed by the Board to thank the DPW workers who disassembled the Reference Stacks, moved them out of the APL, moved them into the Dyer Library and reassembled them.

-TAB- Thank You for Carpeting Project Preparations-A card was signed by the Board to thank the TAB members for helping move lots of boxes around to get ready for the carpet project.

-Sick Leave Retirement Compensation Article for Town Meeting-**MOTION to approve the Abington Public Library Article for the 2020 Special Town Meeting was made by Mary, seconded by Gail and accepted unanimously.**

**Next Meeting:**

**March 9, 2020 7:00pm**

**April 13, 2020 7:00pm**

**Motion to adjourn at 8:36pm was made by Gerry, seconded by Barbara and accepted unanimously.**