

Abington Public Library  
Board of Library Trustees

Meeting Minutes

March 1, 2021

Called to Order 7:02pm

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 REMOTELY VIA ZOOM.**

Minutes of the meeting held on January 11, 2021 were reviewed by the Board.

**MOTION to approve the January 11, 2021 minutes was made by unanimous consent.**

**Chairman's Report**

-Nomination Papers-The Nomination Papers for Mary, Gail and Henry have all been returned to Town Hall. A member of the staff, Heidi Hernandez, is running for School Committee.

-Liaison to Fire Station Committee-Henry would like to have someone from the Board be a liaison on the Fire Station Committee. Jake volunteered to be on the Committee.

-Other-The MBLC has approved our State Aid.

## **Library Director's Report**

- Financial and Statistical Reports- Finances are right where they should be at this time of year. The Book Budget is 60% expended. Building Maintenance and Repair lines and the Salary lines are good. Digital Circulation is still good. Circulation of print books is almost half of last year. The Owl program was well attended.

-Programming Update-Story Times are going well virtually. Deb is looking to start booking in-person and Zoom programs for the fall. The Copeland Room is being used for Curbside so programs may have to be done in other spaces.

-OCLN Update-RB Digital is being taken over by Overdrive. March 14-16, 2021 will be when the transition is done, and it will be easier for patrons to access magazines from the one platform. The Network was offered a good price for the Ancestry Database but decided not to take it because all of the access would be in the Library (no home access). With computers and computer time so limited, it was not a good investment at this time. Pronunciator is being renewed. The Hull Library Director just retired so now Deb is the fourth longest ranking Director in OCLN.

-Friends Update-There will be a Book Sale on May 15, 2021 with a rain date of May 22. Just like in the fall, it will be outside with tables distanced under the portico. Selected donations will be taken and there will be no public appeal for books. The Membership drive went well. The Anderson Foundation has closed and has paid out \$10,000.00 to the Friends. The money is going into an interest-bearing account and the funds will be used for Children's Programs. The Anderson Foundation has supported the APL for thirty years.

-Other-The Kingston and Hanover Libraries may be decertified on Thursday.

## **Building Issues**

-Electrical outlets under the Portico-Deb is in the process of finding out which electrical outlets work and how to put extension cords outside for laptops. Study

tables are going to be put up under the Portico along the Copeland Room so that tutoring can be done. The Children's Room side of the building is going to be used for outdoor Story Times. The ceilings and corners of the building are going to be cleaned up at the end of the spring. Deb will also be calling Griggs and Brown to get a professional bee inspection done on a regular basis.

-Building Alarm Battery-The Burglar Alarm battery had to be replaced.

-Other-The Lobby has all been re-painted. In the process of painting, it was discovered that the screws for the automatic door opener were not sunk properly and were in danger of falling out. Bob was able to fix the screws, so Deb did not have to call the door company.

### **-Current Library Issues**

-COVID-19 Service Update-If the town stays in the yellow, the APL will open up to indoor browsing next week. The Whitman Library is not opening up any time soon. The Rockland Library is hoping to open in the spring, Hanover is hoping to open in March, and Norwell in June. Holbrook and Weymouth are both open now on a limited basis. When the APL opens, it will be Tuesday through Thursday for varying hours, so the staff is not overwhelmed as we fill lots of holds for other area libraries (especially Children's and Teens books). There will be a limit on the number of patrons in the building at one time, no public computers available in the building for the first few weeks, as well as sanitizing and mask protocols for anyone coming into the Library. Copying and faxing will be done by staff members. All eligible APL staff members have gotten their first COVID vaccine.

**MOTION to approve the Proposed Hours of Service Spring 2021 with the qualification that Deb can loosen or tighten the policies as COVID restrictions change was made by Barbara, seconded by Gail and accepted unanimously.**

-FY22 Budget-March 17, 2021 is when Deb and Henry will meet with the Finance Team to discuss the Budget. The new Children's position has been taken out of the Budget. The two part time positions that are currently unfilled are still in the Budget. If cuts have to be made, there is some room to get to the MAR.

## **Old Business**

-Annual Report-The Annual Report was submitted. The deadline was extended to the end of February. **MOTION to approve the Annual Report as written was made by Carrie, seconded by Mary and accepted unanimously.**

## **New Business**

-Summer Reading Program Preview-This year's Summer Reading registration will be on-line. There will be some kind of drive through or walk-through kick-off celebration outside. Three large programs will be held outside or in the large space in front of the windows at the back of the Library. This year's theme is Tales and Tails. Story Times and crafts will be done outside as much as possible. Other places that may be used are the Senior Center or Griffins Dairy, but Deb would like to keep programs close to the Library.

-COVID-19 Policy Updates-**MOTION to approve the COVID-19 Policy was made by Betty, seconded by Jake and accepted unanimously.**

## **Next Meeting:**

**April 12 at 7:00pm**

**Motion to adjourn at 8:21pm was made by Carrie, seconded by Gerry and accepted unanimously.**