

Abington Public Library
Board of Library Trustees

Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2021

Called to Order 7:00pm

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

***ATTENDED THE MEETING REMOTELY VIA ZOOM.**

Minutes of the meeting held on March 1, 2021 were reviewed by the Board.

MOTION to approve the March 1, 2021 minutes was made by Barbara, seconded by Betty and accepted unanimously.

Chairman's Report

-Town Election-The Town Election is April 24th at Beaver Brook Elementary School. Everyone from the Board of Library Trustees has turned in their paperwork for the election.

-Other-Thank you to Deb, Heidi, Liz and Sandy for working the COVID clinics. They volunteered their own time to help at the clinics to vaccinate the citizens of Abington.

-Other-The second award, \$14,407.92, of State Aid is on its way.

-Other-On Saturday, May 8 at 8:30am there is going to be a volunteer clean-up day at the APL. Any Board member that is available to do windows, yard work and other odd jobs to spruce up the Library is welcome to help out.

Library Director's Report

- Financial and Statistical Reports-All of the financial numbers are where they should be. The Building Repair and Maintenance line is looking good this year. The Overdrive statistics through OCLN of March were not correct so Deb only has the statistics for February. In February 2020, the Library was closed for half the month for the carpet project and in February 2021 the Library was closed for COVID. Curbside numbers are starting to fall as the building is open. Deb is thinking that a small number of patrons will still request curbside pickup even after the pandemic is over. Curbside services and the use of laptops may continue for patrons if it is needed. Our circulation is still good for this area.

-Programming Update-Zoom Book Clubs are going well. By September, Deb is hoping to have the Book Clubs back in person at the Library. Certain Book Clubs may continue on Zoom either fully or hybrid. The Children's Virtual Story Hours are going well. The First Grade Library Tour is being filmed soon and will be sent to the BBES.

-OCLN Update-The magazine platform switch went well. OCLN Staff Wi-Fi is coming to an end so Deb is looking into getting new access.

-Friends Update-The Friends have a virtually scheduled meeting on April 26th. The Book Sale will be May 15, 2021 from 11-2 outside under the portico. Limited donations will be accepted.

Building Issues

-Portico Tables/Seating-On Friday, the portico will be swept, de-bugged and the tables and chairs will be set up. The meeting room chairs will be taken in and out every day until new outdoor chairs are purchased.

-Automatic Door Closer- The automatic door began to shut very quickly so Deb had to call and get it fixed.

-Refrigerator-The refrigerator in the staff room stopped working and it was going to cost as much to repair it as it was to get a new one. The new refrigerator has been delivered and the staff is very pleased.

-Painting-Director's Office-Carrie Bates will be painting Deb's office while she is on vacation next week. The color plan is the same that is in the Study Rooms.

-Other-The heating/cooling system seems to be working correctly. There is heat in the morning and cooler air circulating in the afternoon.

-Other-Rob will be bringing the new Story Garden bench back next week and will be cleaning up the gardens.

-Current Library Issues

-COVID-19 Service Update-The Rockland Memorial Library has opened up and will have patrons in the building Monday, Tuesday, and Friday. Deb is going to post the hours for both the Abington Public Library and Rockland Public Library hours on the website. Whitman Public Library is still closed and will not be opening until 3-5 weeks after the town is in the COVID green zone and Hingham has no opening day in site. Hanover is now open. Deb is hoping to add to the hours open on Wednesdays in mid-May. By September, Deb would like to be open 53 ½ hours.

-FY22 Budget- The FY22 Budget is looking better than it did. Deb and Henry met with the Finance Committee on March 17, and it went well. The Committee was very impressed with how much the Library was doing behind the scenes.

-Town Meeting May 24-Articles do not need to be submitted for Revolving Funds if nothing has changed as of this Town Meeting. There is a place holder for an Article if the Union Contract is signed before Town Meeting. The Union and the Town Accountant would like to have a contract before Town Meeting.

Old Business

-Summer Reading Program-The APL just finished up the first Winter Reading Program. It was very successful with a total of 93,925 minutes read by adults, teens and children. READsquared has games on the app that a lot of people played this winter. The Summer Reading Program kicks off on June 23rd. Mr. Vinny will be strolling around outside for entertainment. For the summer, story hours will likely be held outside, and Children's Bedtime Story Hour will be in the Children's Room. Deb has asked the Griffin's Dairy Committee if the Library can set up a story walk at the dairy. The book Deb picked is fittingly "Over in the Meadow".

-Other-Legislative Day was remote and Henry and Deb both attended.

New Business

-Unattended Children Policy Update-**MOTION to approve the amendments to the Unattended Children Policy was made by Mary, seconded by Gail and accepted unanimously.**

-Attraction Passes-Most of the Museum Passes are not being used. Some are starting to come back. The Friends did not cover the State Parks Parking Pass, so Deb covered the cost through State Aid. The MFA and Museum of Science Passes are available to the public now.

Next Meeting:

June 7 at 7:00pm

Motion to adjourn at 8:24pm was made by Carrie, seconded by Gerry and accepted unanimously.