

Abington Public Library
Board of Library Trustees

Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2020

Called to Order 7:00pm

Attendees: Henry DiCarlo, Chairman

Betty Henderson, Vice Chairman

Laura Nuttall, Recording Secretary

Gail Bergin

Mary Gillis

Gerry Haas

Barbara McLaughlin

Carrie Murray

Jake O'Neill

Deborah Grimmett, Library Director

Minutes of the meeting held on March 9, 2020 were reviewed by the Board.

MOTION to approve the March 9, 2020 minutes was made by Betty, seconded by Barbara and accepted unanimously with one abstention.

Chairman's Report

-Town Manager Search Update-Abington has a new Town Manager, Scott Lambiase. He has had a Department Head meeting on Zoom to meet all the people he will be working with.

-Town Meeting- Shawn Reilly said the Trustees can meet outside if we need to before Town Meeting on June 22, 2020. The Board can sit together at the meeting but we will be spread out in the Auditorium. Overflow will be in the Gymnasium.

-Board-The Board of Library Trustees will reorganize after the election on June 23, 2020.

-Bridge-The new bridge to Reilly Field is finished.

-Furloughs-The Covid-19 shutdown has caused Weymouth, Hanover, Rockland, Plymouth and Avon and many others Libraries in the area to furlough staff.

Library Director's Report

-Monthly Financial and Selected Statistical Reports-Things look good financially this year. The APL is going to turn in as much money as possible back to the Town at the end of this fiscal year in hopes that there will not be midyear cuts. Stats have not been done but digital circulation for the past few months has increased dramatically. Curbside pickup is going well and people are very happy to get physical books in their hands.

-Staff Update-Barbara has retired and Sue's last day is June 30, 2020. Lynne will be taking Sue's position and will be starting the first week of July. Lynne and Barbara's part-time positions will not be filled right away. The staff is planning on having a reception for the retirees in the future.

-Provisions for Safety for Staff and Library Users-Deb took the Board into the Library to see the plexiglass that has been put up at the circulation desk, the desk in the Children's Room and the Reference Librarian's desk. When the Library reopens, there will be arrows to keep people moving in one direction. Seating will be spread out around the rooms and only three computers will be available to patrons.

Building Issues

-Carpeting and Furniture-The carpeting and the upholstered chairs look great. Some of the small chairs in the Children's room are still at the painters. When the business reopens, the chairs that are finished will be dropped off and the chairs that are still at the Library will be taken to the shop to be painted.

-Town Energy Efficiency Project-The subcontractor that was working on the project quit. The new subcontractor had worked on the building before and has been able to identify issues that are going on. He has also been able to get the air conditioning working.

-Plumbing-sink adjustments-Since there have been no people in the building, there has been nobody turning the water on. Deb turned on the faucets last

week and they were clogged with sediment. Mr. Gouthro came in and adjusted the faucets so that the water flows well and it is hot. He is also going to price a new water bottle fill station to replace the bubbler.

Current Library Issues

-LSTA Grant Update-At the end of June, the archivist from NEDCC will come to the Library to look at the collection. Most of the other meetings will be done virtually. The Yearbook Project has been put on hold as the BPL is not accepting books now.

Old Business

-FY21 Budget-Revised-The Town Manager has asked all departments to reduce the FY21 Budget. Deb has reduced it while still keeping the total above the MAR.

MOTION to approve the revised FY21 budget was made by Mary seconded by Gail and accepted with one negative vote.

-Community Preservation Act Story Garden Restore and Refresh-Work will be done in the garden when it dries out. The CPA funds can be used whenever the project gets finished.

New Business

-COVID-19 Policy Updates-Deb has added updates to many the existing APL Policies to conform with the current COVID-19 protocols. **MOTION to approve the adoption of the updates to existing policies including the WEARING OF MASKS IN THE BUILDING AT ALL TIMES was made by Gail, seconded by Jake and accepted unanimously.**

-COVID-19 Hours of Service Update-Once the Library is open to the public, Deb would like to have Senior Citizens Hours Monday-Thursday from 10:00-11:00am. **MOTION to approve the Hours of Service Policy was made by Carrie, seconded by Gerry and accepted unanimously.**

-Virtual Programming Update-Summer reading will be virtual using READsquared software. June 22, 2020 is when the Summer Reading program begins. To begin the summer all programs and logging in of reading hours will be virtual. Later in

the summer the hope is to have outdoor story times. The Mystery Group and Book Talk on Zoom have gone well. There was a glitch with the Book Talk group that Deb was able to fix. Cooking, crafts, Nonfiction book club, Fiction book club, Pop fiction book club will all continue on Zoom. Amy has been using Google Meets for her Story times and book clubs.

-Other- Some ideas were expressed by the Board. Can a low power transmitter be used to broadcast to cars like at a drive-in movie to do Story Time? Can tables and chairs be put outside in the garden or under the portico so patrons can use the Wi-Fi outside? Deb is going to look into these ideas.

Next Meeting:

June 22, 2020-Town Meeting 6:45pm at AHS

July 20, 2020 7:00pm

Motion to adjourn at 8:40pm was made by Carrie, seconded by Gerry and accepted unanimously.