

Board of Library Trustees Minutes  
February 18, 2020  
Ashland Public Library-Cheever Conference Room

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. Minutes of January 21, 2020 were unanimously approved.

Present: Chair Bonnie Mitchell; Trustees Carolyn Bell, Carol Ambacher, Kab Rabinowitz; Library Director Paula Bonetti; Children's Librarian Lois McAuliffe

Absent: Lornie Bullerwell

The issue of emotional support animals in the library was decided after advice from Town Counsel. The Board advised the Library Director, Paula Bonetti, to retain the wording, "Animals are not permitted in the Library, except for guide or service animals" and to accommodate emotional support animals on a case by case basis to accommodate patrons' needs whenever possible. Town Counsel's written advice should be retained as an adjunct to the policy.

An Ashland resident and Assistant Professor has requested Paula's consultation with her management class of 60 Curry College students. Paula would identify a "real-life" concern to the class which, in turn, would work on and present a solution that may or may not be acceptable. The Board favors this interaction as a growth opportunity for Paula and potential problem solution that benefits the Library as well.

Neetha Vuppala will introduce/coordinate an Adult Cooking Class and cookbook in April. It will be a monthly, evening, potluck event where participants will make and bring a recipe from a chosen cookbook. This will be an opportunity to bring people together to share the various dishes, exchange ideas and discuss the cookbook, which will be available to the participants at the front desk. No alcoholic beverages will be permitted. There is guidance from a Massachusetts State Law regarding potluck events that addresses food and facility inspections and common food allergies.

Meeting room evacuation policies as well as expectations for room conditions after the rooms have been used are now posted on the walls of each room.

Our McNaughton subscription is well under way and has been well-received by patrons. Also enthusiastically received is the new "auto-renew" option. Circulation has substantially increased, e.g., YTD 79,069 up 1,229 from FY19. Now, two days before the due date, patrons are sent an "automatically renew" message and new due date. The downside of this is the late fees to the Town may decrease.

In order to manage the storage of books for book sales, The Friends are expanding the dates and hours of their quarterly sales (10AM-4PM, Saturdays, March 7, June 10, September 26, and December 5). Guidelines for shoppers and acceptable bags will be provided.

The Friends are also co-sponsoring, with Arts! Ashland Alliance, a Children's Literature Festival on May 9 from 10:30AM-4:00PM at the library. Authors and workshops will be featured, and food trucks will be on hand.

A \$1,000 donation was received from a patron who is unable to hold books and Paula has beefed up the audio collection with this generous gift.

We have been fortunate to have Bill Good as our evening custodian these last few years. He has been an enormous help with meeting room cleanup – tables, chairs, added trash in addition to his regular cleaning duties. He has resigned effective February 22. His resignation presents a Facilities problem which Paula has addressed with both Facilities and Town Manager. We thank Bill for his service and wish him well as he embarks on a new job.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM. The next Board meeting is March 17, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Ambacher  
Secretary

