

Board of Library Trustees Minutes
February 18, 2021
Ashland Public Library-Zoom Call

Meeting was called to order at 7:09 P.M. Roll call was taken, and minutes of January 19 and January 28 were unanimously approved.

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

This meeting was primarily focused on a transition of Library Directors. Paula has been working on a detailed comprehensive transition plan for the running of the library for February through March. She expects to review this with the Town Manager for his expectations and concurrence. Staff will be managing the day-to-day operations and she will be available from home after February 23 for problem resolution, payroll and warrants, reports such as ARIS, the Director's Report, and any unforeseen matters. She is fully confident that her seasoned staff can make hard decisions, when necessary. The Board totally supports Paula's plan.

By March 1, the library will be open with the same limited hours on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

Paula reported that Minuteman will be investing \$900,000 in digital content for FY22. The FY22 budget has been approved and Ashland's fee will be \$28,921, a 1.59% increase over FY21. Our Overdrive fee will be \$13,080, a 17% increase.

Ashland was certified on February 4. The initial award of \$14,319.11 has been received in our Treasurer's office. The remainder of the award will be calculated once the outcome of the waiver applications is taken into consideration and will arrive toward the end of the fiscal year.

Facilities has been notified of the ice buildup on the roof and gutters over the main entrance which is causing dripping and icy spots near the door. There is also a leak in the ceiling over the former men's room, but it will have to wait for Spring to repair.

A more involved repair is needed for the patio near the main entrance, which is sinking and creating large puddles.

After nineteen years devoted to the Ashland Library and community, years that saw a new building come to life and a public in support of what the library means to the dynamics of a town, Paula said good-bye and the Board wishes her well in the next chapter of her life.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M. The next Board meeting is March 16, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Ambacher
Secretary

