

## Board of Library Trustees Minutes

June 15, 2021

Town Hall Meeting Room

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 P.M. Roll call was taken, minutes of May meeting were not reviewed as Carol is absent due to illness; May minutes will be reviewed with June minutes at the July meeting.

Present: Chair Bonnie Mitchell; Trustees: Carolyn Bell, Claire Goss, Kab Rabinowitz, Linda Weene; Library Director Meena Jain; Children's Librarian Lois McAuliffe; Guest Debra Griffin

Board meetings will resume to being in-person this summer.

Bonnie officially welcomed the two new Trustees, Claire Goss and Linda Weene.

The Board unanimously voted Bonnie Mitchell as Chair, Carolyn Bell as Vice Chair, and Clare Goss as Secretary moving forward.

There is a new art donation coming to the library. Meena will reach out to Larry DeJong to determine plans for recognition of this donation and report back to the Board at the 7/20/21 meeting.

The library has been fully re-open since 5/29/21. All upholstered chairs have been professionally cleaned and placed back around the library.

Meena conducted five first interviews and three second interviews for the staff person. The Board voted unanimously to offer the position to Joanne Zobbi for a start on July 1.

The Board voted unanimously to close the library for Saturday, 6/19/21 in observance of Juneteenth. Educational material for the community on the significance of Juneteenth was posted on the door of the library and shared via social media.

The next Strategic Plan is due in October 2022. An Action Plan is due 12/1/21. Meena will find and share a copy of the current Strategic Plan with the Board.

The Board discussed whether authors may sell books during author events. Meena will send out the current policies and the Board will review them before the next meeting.

Meena has been working to start a Program Planning Group through the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners that will help teach other libraries in the state how to run successful, engaging programming for patrons.

In Fall 2021 the Friends will be running an online auction of children's book illustrations signed by the artists.

The meeting rooms will re-open this fall. The existing policy states that people can book it up to three months in advance.

An Ashland Cub Scout troop has offered the library a wooden pallet with a heart painted on it to display in front of the building. Other town buildings have these hearts displayed, too. The Board voted unanimously to allow a heart pallet to be displayed and Meena will decide on the best location.

Facilities Update: Cameras were bought and are being installed. There are new/working receipt printers. The people counter is installed and working. Holly has a new tablet for filming her “make & takes.” Items ordered but waiting for delivery include: three laptops for staff, and four new copiers/printers. Fencing will be going up around the dumpsters (at a cost of about \$2,500) to be installed the Fall.

Lois reported that the Summer Reading Program kicks off on 6/16/21. Both online and paper reading logs are available. Children can do extra activities and each activity enters a reader into a raffle to win additional prize books.

Community member Debra Griffin asked what the library is doing to improve racial, queer, and disability justice literacy among patrons and asked about the library’s initiatives for racial, queer, and disability justice. The library currently has book displays for both Pride month and Juneteenth. Education about the importance of these celebrations is on social media. Lois is regularly adding “multicultural” and “LGBTQ” stickers to books so patrons may select picture books where characters reflect their own families. The Board wants to support Meena’s work to continue these education initiatives.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 P.M. The next Board meeting is July 20, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,  
Claire Goss  
Secretary