Meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. Minutes of September 17, 2019 were unanimously approved.

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

Research is ongoing for the Library of Things. We expect to begin with about ten items, paid for from the Schiesske Donation. Those dollars have also enabled the Library to purchase holders for new books and backpacks.

Our newly appointed Page, Abby Sherman, is going through the town processing steps and will begin in approximately a week or two. She will start with shelving and typing labels. Our other new employee, Kate Davis, came on board quickly, thanks, in part, to Linda Beckwith’s guidance.

The Library is the first town department to receive safety training in emergency situations or crises e.g., barricades, exits, etc. Initiated by our Police Chief, Vin Alfano, and jointly conducted with the school Resource Officer, Dave Muri, the training will be rolled out to the rest of the town offices.

On Saturday, May 9, 2020, the Library, in collaboration with the Ashland Cultural Council, the Arts/Ashland Alliance, the Friends of the Library and the Ashland Elementary Schools, will offer a Children’s Book festival. The books will range from picture to young adult publications. A committee has been formed and is hard at work on the planning. Since this is a library-sponsored event, the Board unanimously approved the sale of books.

Lois McAuliffe conducted one-hour training sessions for Ashland teens interested in earning community service hours by volunteering at the library. The dates were October 8, 10 and 19. Twenty two volunteers attended. Three or four volunteers work each week.

Open Meeting Law training will be conducted on October 30 from 6:30-9:00 at the Community Center. It is not required for those who have previously attended.

Conversation Circles opportunities are on the back burner for now,

Gender-neutral signage for restrooms is now throughout the schools. Accordingly, library signage in English and Braille will read “RESTROOM”.

Paula reported F-21 budget is due December 3. Needs will be identified in advance of this date. Carpet and furniture cleaning are sorely needed. One estimate, about $4900.00, is being pursued by the Facilities Manager.

A problem with mold in the old part of the library under the front granite steps was identified. The first steps to address this will be spraying and dehumidifying.
Museum passes, donated by Middlesex Bank, are heavily used. Between January and August this year the following statistics attest to the usage:

- $400 (16 Checkouts) Old Sturbridge Village
- $399 (52 Checkouts) Davis Farmland
- $250 (16 Checkouts) John F. Kennedy Presidential Library
- $250 (49 Checkouts) Zoo New England
- $150 (29 Checkouts) Tower Hill Botanic Garden

Through the generosity of the Friends, there was substantial usage of the following additional passes:

- $700 (73 Checkouts) Boston Children’s Museum
- $700 (99 Checkouts) Museum of Science
- $650 (129 Checkouts) New England Aquarium
- $475 (78 Checkouts) Museum of Fine Arts
- $300 (56 Checkouts) Discovery Museum
- $125 (20 Checkouts) Native Plant Trust (Garden in the Woods)

Last, but not least, from the MOMS Club of Ashland:

- $250 (44 Checkouts) Ecotarium

This meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM. The next Board meeting is November 20, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Ambacher, Secretary