



BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Thursday, April 16th, 2020

TIME: 12:00 noon

Location: Virtual

Board Members/Attendees Present: Mel Dyer (Chair), Aprilleigh Lauer (Vice Chair), Deanne Bonnar (Secretary), Mallory Callinan, Linda Jackson, George Ripley (Director), Nancy Rice.

Board Members Absent: Joanne Robertson, Selectman Representative.

Call to Order: 12:09 pm by Mel D.

Review of the Minutes: Motion to pass with wording amendments made by Nancy R.; seconded by Linda J.; passed (5-0-0).

Announcements: The library is closed until further notice due to the Corvid 19 pandemic.. All libraries are closed in MA until the Governor deems it safe to reopen public and private institutions and businesses. Trustees meetings will be held virtually until that time.

There was a question raised about evaluations for the Trustees and the Library Director. Apparently, there are none.

Public Comment: Nothing at this time.

Friends Report: Nancy R. reported all meetings are cancelled until further notice due to the pandemic.

Foundation Report: Nothing at this time.

Correspondence: George R. received a notice that Bristol Community College is leaving the SAILS network to join a small academic network. There will be mutual amnesty about lost books.

Old Business: Mel D, recognized that at present we cannot pursue getting groups to help shelf, but that we can think about other groups to approach. Current suggestions are: restaurants, churches, banks, the police and fire departments, the Council on Aging, town offices such as the Harbormaster, grocery stores, hospital employees, the Post Office, the schools (teachers), the Y, The Pound, the Gatemen, The Buzzards Bay Coalition, The Nemasket Group and local elected officials.

New Business: There was a short discussion about the state of closed libraries and the assistance that MBLC is providing on line.

Director's Report:

George R. presented Feb/March report (the March BoLT meeting was cancelled due to the Covid 19 pandemic). The library closed on March 16th. Most of the report covers Feb. as the library was only open two weeks in March.

Nichole Mercier has been hired as a library assistant, but going forward there is a hiring freeze. Most of the staff is furloughed on paid leave except for the Director. Everything is cancelled through May. When the library reopens meetings will be held in the large meeting room and social distancing protocols will be followed.

The Wareham Week is publishing information about resources available on line through the library. There are digital offerings and new databases.

MBLC has loosened requirements for library book budgets. Book orders are on hold.

The town administer, Derek Sullivan, is considering several options for the budget, including the use of emergency funds. Taxes are down from restaurants, hotels, etc.

The computer section has been rearranged so that people will now have separate desks. There are three computer replacements at Spinney. They are not new, but much better than the previous computers.

Patron numbers have dropped below 13,500, but we were on track in the first two weeks of March. There are temporary online cards. Other cards are being extended for two months. Reopening will be hard as social distancing will have to be in place. Most people are understanding. Some are using the library parking lot to access Wi- Fi.

George reminded everyone to fill out their census forms.

Trustee Matters: BoLT term limits were reworded for clarity. MBLC has told George that the library by- laws can written according to the Town Charter. If there is conflict between the Charter and state law, the Charter will usually trump the state. We are free to rewrite the bylaws, but we should keep track of Town Charter revisions.

Next Meeting: May 21st, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

Motion to Adjourn 1:25 pm. - Made by Deanne B.; seconded by Linda J.; passed (6-0-0).