



WALPOLE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Deborah McElhinney – Chairperson

Lois Czachorowski – Secretary

Barry Oremland – Treasurer

Sheila Harbst, Jennifer Marciello

Board of Trustees Meeting

May 18, 2021

The May 2021 meeting of the Library Board of Trustees was held with members participating remotely via Zoom, following the Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L.c.30A Section 20. Public Forum Login information had been posted as being available by contacting the Library Director.

Trustees Present: L. Czachorowski, D. McElhinney, S. Harbst, B. Oremland, J. Marciello

Also Present: Library Director S. Genovese

1. Board of Trustees Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by D. McElhinney.
2. Minutes for April 20, 2021 meeting were reviewed and approved by roll call vote of 5-0-0.
3. Reports:
 - Library Director:
 - Molly Riportella, Assistant Director, currently on an eight-week maternity leave, is due to return on June 7.
 - A Walpole Library Children's Programmer position was approved by the Personnel Board on May 11. Three resumes for this position have been received to date. These candidates will be reviewed by Sal and Kara.
 - A May 5 power outage briefly interrupted library internet service.
 - During the month of April, the library recorded 4,826 visitors. The Virtual Book Club hosted 4 participants. The Children's Department held 9 programs with 236 participants. Study rooms were reserved by 161 patrons. Community Room meetings totaled 13 with a sharp decline in use by Walpole Public Schools.
 - Direct circulation of library materials totaled 11,115, compared to 459 items in April, 2020 and 14,442 in April, 2019. Patrons downloaded or streamed 4,111 items from Hoopla, Overdrive, and Kanopy in April, 2021. This use of on-line services represented 27% of the library's total circulation (15,226 items).
 - Governor Baker announced major changes to Massachusetts COVID policy, to be in effect as of Saturday, May 29. Under these new guidelines, the Walpole Library will be fully open. For more details, see Update on COVID-19 under Old Business below.
 - Friends of the Library
 - No new report.

- Walpole Library Parent Advisory Board:
 - No new report.
 - Endowment Trust:
 - No new report, no invoices.
4. Old Business:
- COVID-19 Update:
 - As of May 29, per new Massachusetts guidelines, the library will be fully open. No social distancing or wearing of masks will be required. Full capacity will be allowed in all rooms, including the Community Room.
 - COVID signs will be removed.
 - In-person attendance at meetings will resume. Sal will check with the Town Clerk regarding the permissibility of participants calling in to meetings via Zoom.
 - Children's Room toys, hard plastic but not plush, will be returned to use. Sal will check with the Board of Health regarding a requirement for non-vaccinated children to wear masks. Outdoor children's programming, which has proven to be popular with patrons, will continue as weather permits.
 - Circulation desk sneeze guards and plastic guards on keyboards will remain in place. No sharing of food or drinks by patrons will be permitted in the library. Late return of books will remain fine free.
 - Sal will check with the Library Friends regarding any change in their policy regarding acceptance of donated books for sale.
 - Website redesign:
 - Sal will make arrangements for short presentations by website design vendors, with dates to be announced at the June meeting. These presentations will be posted as meetings and will provide an opportunity for Trustees to become more familiar with possible website services.
2. New Business:
- Sheila Harbst was recognized, with gratitude, for her service on the Board of Trustees of the Walpole Public Library. She will be retiring from this position as of the Town Election on June 6, 2021.
3. Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM by roll call vote of 5-0-0.
4. Next scheduled meetings of the Library Trustees will be held on June 29, July 20, and August 17, 2021.

Submitted by L. Czachorowski,
May 30, 2021