

Newbury Public Library
Newbury, NH
Library Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Date: February 8, 2021

Type of Meeting: Business meeting posted for public attendance and conducted by video conference

Attendees

Library Staff: Lea McBain, Laura Pezone

Trustees: Jeanne Palleiko, Patricia Sherman, Helen Wright, Elizabeth Courant, Lynne Tuohy

Non-voting Alternate Trustee: Ken Tentarelli

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm

Meeting Minutes

A motion was made (Patricia), seconded (Helen) to accept minutes of the January 25 meeting as distributed. Patricia, Jeanne, Elizabeth, Helen and Lynne voted in favor of the motion by roll call vote.

A motion was made (Patricia), seconded (Helen) to accept minutes of the January 11 meeting as distributed. Patricia, Jeanne, Elizabeth, Helen and Lynne voted in favor of the motion by roll call vote.

Treasurer's Report

Lea will ask the town manager how salaries will be billed since approval of the 2021 budget will not happen until the town meeting on May 1.

A motion was made (Lynne), seconded (Jeanne) to accept \$145.77 in unanticipated income. Patricia, Jeanne, Elizabeth, Helen and Lynne voted in favor of the motion by roll call vote.

Patricia will ask Ron Lamarre to provide a written statement of the cost for preparing the walk-through video.

A motion was made (Lynne), seconded (Patricia) to table a vote on the amount to be paid for the video until a firm cost is received. Patricia, Jeanne, Elizabeth, Helen and Lynne voted in favor of the motion by roll call vote.

A motion was made (Lynne), seconded (Jeanne) to accept the treasurer's report as distributed. Patricia, Jeanne, Elizabeth, Helen and Lynne voted in favor of the motion by roll call vote.

Director's report

Porch pickup is being heavily used by patrons.

Lea will stress staff and public safety aspect of building expansion at town meeting presentation.

A staff meeting will be held tomorrow to plan for reopening.

The library is providing help for people who are having trouble making arrangements for vaccinations and for procuring covid relief payments.

The policy committee met two weeks ago. They established priorities for revising the existing policies and set an agenda for creating new policies.

A motion was made (Lynne), seconded (Patricia) to accept the director's report as distributed. Patricia, Jeanne, Elizabeth, Helen and Lynne voted in favor of the motion by roll call vote.

Bond Hearing Readout

While public comments were generally favorable, there were questions about why the expansion costs are high. Dick Wright, Catherine Holmes, Dan Wolf, and Joy Nowell spoke in favor of the expansion and praised the amount of money raised by private donation.

A question was asked whether the library expansion conflicts with police department plans. Lynne will contact the police chief to emphasize that the library trustees and staff support the police department and hope that the police reciprocate the sentiment.

Preparation for town meeting

Patricia will write a letter to the Select Board requesting its approval to display a walk-thru video and two 34x36 inch posters in the town office lobby. The letter will also ask whether the town office has video display equipment that can be used for this purpose.

Lynne proposed, and trustees agreed, to hold special meeting at 4:30 pm on February 22 to finalize what will be shown in the town offices.

The trustees agreed by unanimous consensus to close the library on May 1 so that library staff who are town citizens can attend the town meeting.

Acknowledgement of large donors.

Various means were considered as way to acknowledge large donors to the building expansion. It was agreed to lower the threshold levels for sponsorship of the meeting rooms from \$30,000 to \$25,000 and to split the sponsorship of the children's rooms so that each room can have a separate sponsor. Jeanne will determine how other suggestions can best match the level of donations being received.

Foundation Report

Donations have been received in the amount of \$384,461.75. In addition, pledges in the amount of \$55,000 have been received bring the total of donations and pledges to \$439,461,80.

New Business

On January 15, Patricia wrote to the Select Board proposing that a written memorandum of understanding be created between the Select Board and the Library Trustees. Thus far, no response has been received. Lea will follow up with the town administrator.

At 5:32 pm a motion was made (Patricia), seconded (Lynne) to adjourn. Helen, Lynne, Jeanne, Elizabeth, and Patricia voted in favor of the motion by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted, Kenneth Tentarelli