

Minutes of January 24, 2017
Meeting of the Library Board of Trustees
Ashland Public Library

Present: Carol Ambacher, Lornie Bullerwell, Bonnie Mitchell, Kab Rabinowitz, Library Director Paula Bonetti

Absent: Carolyn Bell

Call to order: 7:00 PM

The board approved the minutes of the October 18, 2016 meeting. Because the November 15, 2016 meeting never posted, the minutes for that meeting are incorporated into these minutes.

The trustees were introduced to Lucie Carley, the new library assistant in the children's room.

Announcements:

- Two trustee seats are open for the May 16 election (Kab Rabinowitz and Carolyn Bell).
- Town will host a breakfast for volunteers at the Community Center on Saturday, February 25, 8-10 AM.
- There will be future training for everyone regarding changes to Public Records Law.

The board voted to accept a gift of a telescope, donated by the Brandt family, to the Friends. It will be lent to Ashland residents according to the library's Loan Policy. Len Rabinowitz has written a manual for this particular model and an orientation session will be held at the library on Saturday, February 4 at 1:30 PM. The Board is grateful for his time and support of this endeavor.

Additionally, MathWorks, in Natick, has funded a grant to the Aldrich Astronomical Society's Library Telescope Program and Paula was approached by John Pool, coordinator for Aldrich, to place another telescope in our library. Paula will inquire about details with the director of the Milford Public Library, which also participated in this program. We will then have two telescopes to lend the public.

Ken Gatto, an Ashland resident, has volunteered to build a rack for the magazine exchange program, housed in the side entrance. The Donor Fund Committee will provide the funds for the construction material.

The Donor Fund Committee is also considering purchasing photographs of the library for the Library Meeting Room and the twenty-five new armchairs, for which this committee donated the funds, are in place in the Meeting Room.

The financial and compliance documents for State Aid eligibility were submitted and received by the MBLC and State Aid has been confirmed.

A capital request, submitted previously for replacement of furniture in the Children's and Young Adult's rooms, was approved by the town for \$10,000. The furniture is in place in both rooms, is interchangeable, bright, sturdy and will resist spills and damage. Window treatment for a cold area of the Children's Room is on order.

The pedestrian crossing in front of the library concerns the Board. Although freeing up two parking spaces in front of the library has improved visibility of the crosswalk, the Board believes the area remains dangerous as many cars do not slow down. Lornie Bullerwell will pursue a lighted sign to ensure the safety of pedestrians, especially parents with strollers, the elderly, and the many people who cross back and forth during "Farmers Market Season". He arranged for Ed Burman to present to the Board details of lights, their effectiveness, availability, installation, and costs to the Board, was in touch with Steve Greenburg who advised him on the possibility of fundraising, and has presented the Board's concerns to Town Manager, Michael Herbert. The Board would like this to be a warrant article for the May town meeting but is unsure what department to collaborate with as it is not essentially a library issue. Paula will ask the advice of Michael Herbert and inform the Board.

The projector bulb has been replaced at a cost of \$350. The need for better audio/visual equipment increases as usage of the Meeting Room increases. We are still waiting to learn the amount of the donation we will be receiving from the estate of Robert Earl Schiesske, as we envision this will enable an upgrade or new installation. Paula has canvassed library directors throughout the state and has learned that equipment is extensively varied. She is enlisting the help of Paul Carpenter from IT since the technical knowledge needed to design an A/V plan, to function for the many different groups which use the Meeting Room, is beyond her knowledge level.

Fiscal 2018 Budget work is proceeding. Paula has estimated 3 staff positions @ \$20/hour for opening the library an additional five hours on Mondays. Our Minuteman membership fee will increase to \$26,690.54, a 2.67% increase over FY17.

YTD circulation through December was 72,074, an increase of 3,617 items over FY16.

Next meeting is February 21, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Ambacher