

Board of Library Trustees Minutes
March 15, 2022
Ashland Public Library Conference Room

Meeting called to order at 7:15pm.

Present: Chair Bonnie Mitchell; Trustees: Carolyn Bell, Claire Goss, Kab Rabinowitz, Linda Weene;
Library Director Meena Jain

Minutes for February 2022 meeting passed with minor grammatical corrections.

Meena reported that the budget for this year is on track. The budget for next year still under review. The new budget will be voted on by the town at Town meeting on May 4, 2022

Masks are still required in Children's Room, but no longer required elsewhere in the building. This updated mask policy is going smoothly.

The Board briefly reviewed the first draft of the Strategic Plan. Meena asks that the Board take time to review and send her any edits.

Staffing changes: Joseph is leaving at the end of the month. Brenna Hyland has applied and been interviewed. The Board voted and unanimously approved Meena offering the position of Library Assistant to Brenna. Holly likely leaving APL in the middle of April.

Meena will hire a substitute to help bridge the gap in evening shift, as both Joseph and Holly currently work evenings. Ideally she wants two people and a floater. We now have three substitutes. The Board suggested closing the Children's Room on evenings there are only two staff in the building. Meena will consider.

Recently, there were issues raised by patrons about the Children's Room. Meena has spoken to both staff members and has asked the Director for ideas on how to create a warmer and more welcoming atmosphere in the Children's Room.

Len Rabinowitz has offered to purchase the library's telescope to have for his personal use. He has offered to continue using it to host library programs. Meena will check with Town Hall on whether the library is able to sell the telescope.

The APL has been offered the community tent at the Ashland Farmers Market: 6/11, but the Board agreed that may be too soon. Meena will ask about dates later in the season.

Meena has been invited to be a committee member for comic books at the Boston Book Festival. The festival will be Boston in October, location TBD.

Meena is considering a bulk mailing this summer to promote library services and programming.

Children's room patron numbers are up.

The Children's Book Festival coming up in May!

No community participation tonight.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M. The next Board meeting is April 19, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
Claire Goss
Secretary