

Bedford Free Public Library
Library Trustees Minutes for Tuesday, April 13, 2021
7:00 PM • Online Meeting via Zoom

Chair Elizabeth Hacala called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Present

Trustees: Chair Elizabeth Hacala, Robin Grace Silbert, Abby Hafer, Alma Hart, Mike Pulizzi, Fahad Ken Alden, Rachel Field. Other attendees: Emily Mitchell, Selectperson liaison, Dot Bergin, Bedford Citizen, Chelsea Conroy who recorded the meeting for public broadcast on Bedford TV, Bruce and Linda Young.

Administration: Richard Callaghan, Library Director. Noreen O’Gara, Assistant Director.

The Chair asked if there were any public comments. None were forthcoming.

Secretary’s Report

The February minutes were approved: Moved by Mike, seconded by Abby: Vote 6-0-1. Fahad abstained.

March Minutes were approved with minor changes: Moved by Rachel seconded by Robin: Vote 6-0-1. Fahad abstained.

Director’s Report

- A wayward gray squirrel moved into the Children’s Room. He was named Professor Quirrell and then safely escorted outside on April 5th.
- The Peace Pole art project will be discussed in the May meeting.
- Richard will ask Town Manager Sarah Stanton about an extension into next fiscal year for staff to use vacation. We have a number of staff members who may lose vacation time if not used by June 30th.
- Spring Peeps Competition had some great entries through uploaded photos to the library website. Participation was down drastically from last year.

The report approval was moved by Fahad, seconded by Mike. Ayes: Fahad, Rachel, Abby, Elizabeth, Alma, Mike, Robin, 7-0-0

Unfinished Business

- Finance Committee Meeting Review - Approved the Library HVAC project 9-0-0. If approved at Town meeting, the project will start in 2022 and will likely have some disruptions to the library routine.
- Contact Free Curbside Pickup is back outside as of April 5th. Monday through Saturday with 2 pm to 8 pm pick up on Thursday nights.
- Library reopening discussion - Use of the public computers and the study areas will begin on Thursday, May 13th. Patrons can reserve two hour blocks. Browsing in the whole building will begin in early June. We hope to be back to normal service possibly after July Fourth, definitely by Labor Day.
- We expect to have outdoor story time in the summer every Wednesday.

New Business

- Library Trustees Annual Board Reorganization
Election of Chair: Rachel moved that Mike become Chair and Elizabeth become vice chair. Alma seconded. Vote: 7-0-0
Election of Secretary: Abby nominated Fahad. Robin seconded.
Vote: 7-0-0
- Election of three Trustees to the Library Corporation
Rachel nominated Alma to replace Mike. Abby seconded. Vote: 7-0-0
Abby nominated Robin and Rachel. Mike seconded. Vote: 7-0-0
- Plan for the Performance Review of the Director. Trustees will make contributions individually and submit it to the Chairs by April 25. Board will discuss it at the May meeting.
- Microgrid study - The Library will be included in the study. The Facilities Department recommended the Library have a generator also, which is on the capital projects list.

Other Business

Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day - Changing the name of the holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day is on the Town Meeting Warrant. Rachel moved to change the name on the library calendar now (before Town Meeting). Fahad seconded. Vote: 7-0-0. Abby moved that the board support the Town's changing the holiday on the second Monday of October from Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day and that Mike, as chair should make a statement during the discussion at Town Meeting. Rachel seconded. Vote: 7-0-0.

- Appointments - Two employees (Ginny Neff and Nancy Gocht) both decided to retire this month.
- Next Meeting: Tuesday May 11, 2021

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm. Robin made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Rachel seconded: Approved 7-0-0.

Meeting minutes are respectfully submitted by Alma Hart, Secretary.

Documents distributed during the meeting: Agenda, Director's Report, March 2021 Expenditures, March 2021 Statistics