

## **Minutes of the March 10, 2021 Trustees Meeting (virtual)**

**Present:** Karen Herman, John Hess, Mark Yanowitz, Tony Straceski, Marilyn Santagati, Laurence Lamagna, Barbara McNamara, Kim Lynn, and Carolyn Fantini

**Minutes:** **The Minutes of the February 10, 2021 meeting were approved as moved by John Hess and seconded by Mark Yanowitz.**

**Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report as of February 28, 2021 was accepted as moved by Mark Yanowitz and seconded by Marilyn Santagati.**

**Public Comments:** None

### **Director's Report:**

- **Building**  
The Level 1 Bathrooms Project is nearly completed.
- **Town**  
The Select Board is forming a committee to revise the Town Seal. They are requesting that a Trustee join the committee.
- **Services**  
Four Staff members attended a three-week interactive workshop called: Equity in Action: fostering an antiracist library culture. The Library's Inclusivity Group is beginning to look at Trustee policies through the DEI lens. They look forward to working with the new Town commission on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion once it gets up and running. This new Town Commission is primarily made up of people who haven't been involved in town government previously.

Fred Snell interviewed Barbara for Andover TV. They discussed what the library was doing pre-pandemic, all the changes made to continue to provide services during the pandemic and what the future might hold.

Andover Commission on Disabilities is requesting that a sign be placed at the front of the Library informing citizens as to the ADA entrance that is located at the rear of the building. The Board will review the sign and its placement.

Barbara informed the Board about *Living Room Conversations* that is a program at the Boston Public Library. Mark had recommended that MHL look into this program to see if it could be implemented here. Barbara will reach out to BPL for more information.

Laura McVeigh has accepted the Assistant Children's Librarian position. Barbara and the Selection Committee agree that she will be a great addition to the Staff.

- **Staff**  
The 2 groups of Staff have been splitting up the time spent working in the building and working at home because of the Covid crisis. This management was working well. Andrew Flanagan has now ordered that all Town Staff must work in building starting March 15th. Staff will then work inside the Library but the public hours will not change. Only one staff member has received the vaccine so far. Barbara noted that she has been receiving mean and hurtful complaints regarding hours open and the Library's observance of the Massachusetts Covid rules.

Assistant Director's Report :

- Kim strongly complimented Barbara on her handling of the Covid crisis and her efforts in keeping the Staff, as well as the Public, as safe as possible. Even with all the constraints, the *Curbside* and *Grab and Go* services have gone smoothly and are popular. The Staff has created many online programs including *Andover Reads* and Podcasts. 182 people watched *Corageous Conversations : We Need to Talk About Ending Injustice*. Since the Friends are unable to fund some of this work, Mark suggested perhaps the Trustees could at some point.

Old Business

- Vicki organized Trustee Meeting Minutes from the past that will be stored in the Andover Room. Minutes from March 12, 1912 through January 1980 are now in the Andover Room.

New Business

- Marilyn asked how the current issue of the Dr. Seuss Books is being handled in the Children's Room.  
Barbara noted that Surveys are being done with no consensus yet. Many of the books in question are checked out and the librarians are waiting for their return.

Adjournment at 5:00 pm as moved by Anthony Straceski and seconded by Mark Yanowitz.  
The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 4 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carolyn Fantini