

East Bridgewater Library Trustees Meeting

April 18, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 7:00. Board members in attendance were: Director Jessica Henderson, Anne Marek, Brenda Conca, Jennifer Lonergan, Russ Hannagan, Leah Herrmann, and Kelsey Holbrook. Also in attendance, Victoria Panora.
Bills signed.

Leah made a motion to accept the April minutes, Russ seconded.

Motion passed

Director's Report

Old Business

A. Guest - Jen Finn, Head of Adult Services, will present on going fine free.

- This will be a form of equity for our community.
- Libraries that are already fine free see no impact on negative patronage.
- Fines have dropped significantly post-Covid, so no major impact financially.
- We will still be imposing fines on:
 - Museum Passes
 - Traditional games
 - Video games
 - Lost and damaged books

B. Vote: May 1st start date for going fine free.

Russ Hannagan made a motion for a fine free library to begin on May 1, 2023. Kelsey Holbrook seconded.

Motion passed

C. Annual Town Meeting

- May 8th town meeting will be addressing acceptance of streets.
- June 8th town meeting will be about the Town budget
 - Library budget items:
 - Findings from Collins Center to be put into wage grid for FY24
 - Children's librarian pay raise due to more responsibilities than in the original job description.

D. Vote: Close 9-2 on Wednesday, Dec 6 for CERT training, "Until Help Arrives.

Kelsey Holbrook made a motion for the library to close on Wednesday, December 6, 2023 from 9-2 for a staff development day. Russ Hannagan seconded.

Motion passed

- Friday, May 12 the library will be hosting "Free Comic Book Day."

- Anne M. will be attending for the Trustees to show support.
- Wednesday, June 14 is East Bridgewater's Bicentennial Celebration. The library is looking for any support from a Trustee to attend.
- Sunday, June 25 there will be a Multicultural Celebration on the town green.

New Business

A. Outreach at town events

- Friday, May 12 the library will be hosting "Free Comic Book Day."
 - Anne M. will be attending for the Trustees to show support.
- Wednesday, June 14 is East Bridgewater's Bicentennial Celebration. The library is looking for any support from a Trustee to attend.
- Sunday, June 25 there will be a Multicultural Celebration on the town green.

B. Onboarding new trustees

- With our town election occurring before the next meeting, discussion about welcoming them and classes being offered to them.

C. Crisis Communication Plan

- "First Amendment Audits"
 - This is a trend where members of the public visit local town buildings and film employees with the purpose of creating social media content for "clicks" and revenue.
 - Staff have been instructed safe practices if confronted
- Book challenges
 - Members of the public are also coming in and confronting staff about books on hand.
 - Staff have been instructed/trained on how to best handle these situations.

D. Dates for July and August Trustee meetings

- A request from the Director to move our meetings to Tuesday, July 11 and Tuesday, August 8 due to some vacations.

Leah Herrmann made a motion to except the directors report, Kelsey Holbrook seconded.

Motion passed

Ongoing

- Patronage is up, programming throughout the building has been fully attended.
- Staff meetings are proving to be helpful.
- Research for a new website continues.
- The committee for Building updates continues to meet.

Friends Report

- The friends have approximately \$7000 in their account.
- Continuing on working on a budget/wish list.
- More flexibility in getting programming done was discussed.

The Trustees would like to thank Brenda Conca and Russ Hannagan for their terms as Trustees for the East Bridgewater Public Library. The community as a whole has benefited from their time and support!

Meeting adjourned at 8:45
Jennifer Lonergan, Trustee
Next meeting May 16, 2023