



Ayer Library Board Open Session Meeting Minutes: February 17, 2022

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, MGL Chapter 30A, Section 18 and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Ayer Library Board of Trustees is being conducted by remote participation. Every effort has been made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided in the Order. Broadcast and recorded by APAC.

Sharon Slarsky, president, presiding. Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm
Trustees present: Becky Campaner, Maggie Durand, Debra Faust-Clancy, Susan Kennedy – treasurer, Cyndi Lavin – secretary, Rebecca Myers (entered 6:08pm), Sharon Slarsky – president
Trustees absent: Robert Gardner
Also present: Tim Silva – Library Director, Amy Leonard – Head of Youth Services, Cindy Knox – Ayer IT Director

Agenda Items: Call to Order

Review and approval of agenda: No changes made

Motion: A motion was made by Debra Faust-Clancy and seconded by Cyndi Lavin to approve the meeting agenda as posted.

Motion passed by roll call vote 6-0-0

Announcements:

Rebecca Myers will need to run for the 3-year seat on the Library Board this spring. There will be an open seat for 1-year. Sharon Slarsky will call the list of interested candidates.

(Rebecca entered at 6:08pm)

Maggie Durand reported on a potential collaboration with the Ayer Historical Commission regarding a suffrage era post card talk by Carol Corsted. Tim suggested that Barbara Cheeks, Head of Adult Services, could follow up.

The heat failed in the building on Tuesday, February 15. The building was closed Wednesday for repairs, and reopened Thursday. There are still a few valves and control pieces that need to be replaced. It will be a Capital expense. There was no damage from the leak, fortunately. Renaud HVAC from Sutton MA was the business used.

David Sibley will be speaking at the Bull Run on April 3rd. This is a joint program between the Friends of the Ayer Library and the Friends of the Hazen Library. Becky announced that seats are running out.

Public comment: None

Approval of Meeting Minutes: No changes made

Motion: A motion was made by Becky Campaner and seconded by Cyndi Lavin to approve the meeting minutes from January 20, 2021.

Motion passed by roll call vote 7-0-0

Agenda Item: Reports

Treasurer's Report: Interest rates went down this month. Ayer Town Treasurer Barbara Tierney held the expiring CDs to wait until the rates go up.

Motion: A motion was made by Debra Faust-Clancy and seconded by Maggie Durrand to approve the Treasurer's report.

Motion passed by roll call vote 7-0-0

Director's Report:

Programing: There have been some in-person programs, mostly for children. Amy Leonard reported that families, including some new ones, have been coming. She has had seven programs so far, including Strega Mama. Bangarang Yoga and other outside presenters will be coming. Amy will be involved with Page Hilltop School's Community Reading Day on March 4. Barbara Cheeks will be starting up in-person adult programing slowly, while zoom classes will continue.

Change in Library hours: Due to staffing, the evening hours have temporarily been cut back for the next two months. Sharon inquired about pushback, and Tim reported none. On March 1st, a new circulation librarian, Becca Kranz, will be starting in the Children's room. Other part time staff are receiving more hours. There is still a part time position that will be left unfilled until the next fiscal year. Seven student volunteers have been added. Sue Kennedy asked if the Library would go back to the "regular hours" at the end of March. Tim said that adjustments will be made according to the survey being done. Saturdays will be extended, and he will probably restore at least one evening per week, maybe Wednesday.

Public FY2023 Budget Town Forum: All the department heads met with Town Manager Robert Pontbriand, the Select Board, and the Finance Committee on January 26. Questions could be asked about the budget. Tim reported that no one questioned the Library's budget.

(Debra Faust-Clancy and Rebecca Myers left the meeting)

Service upgrade to Library website: Patrons and Staff can now see and reseve museum passes at a glance online. They can also reserve the study room, and the event calendar is more readable.

Motion: A motion was made by Cyndi Lavin and seconded by Maggie Durand to approve the Director's report.

Motion passed by roll call vote 7-0-0

Agenda Item: Old Business

Staff Compensation: Tim got together with head of Human Resources Kevin Johnston. Details will follow. Both have rated the positions, and they matched each other's ratings. There will be a draft proposal for a compensation scale for the next meeting.

Reading Room ceiling repair: No progress. The issue continues to NOT be put on the Select Board agenda, about how to get started before Town Meeting. Otherwise, the work cannot be scheduled until May when the Capital budget money is available. Classic Construction was awarded the job.

Elevator: It was failed by the State inspector in December 2021, as were all elevators more than a few years old across the State. Requirements have changed. Keystone Service Co will keep applying for extensions until they schedule the repairs. Tim reported that the elevator is safe to operate.

Next Meeting: March 17, 2022 at 6:00pm

Adjournment:

Motion: A motion was made by Becky Campaner and seconded by Cyndi Lavin to adjourn meeting at 7:24pm.

Motion passed by roll call vote 5-0-0

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