

Debra Faust-Clancy

Ayer Library Board Open Session Meeting Minutes: April 15, 2021

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.

Robert Gardner, president, presiding. Meeting called to order at 5:34pm
Trustees present: Becky Campaner, Debra Faust-Clancy, Robert Gardner – president, Sue Kennedy – treasurer, Cyndi Lavin – secretary, Sharon Slarsky (at 6:10pm)
Also present: Tim Silva – Library Director, Samantha Benoit – Asst. Library Director, Laurie Sabol – Friends of the Ayer Library, Maggie Durand – candidate for the Library Board

Agenda Items: Review and approval of agenda, announcements, public input

Review and approval of agenda: no changes made

Motion: A motion was made by Debra Faust-Clancy and seconded by Becky Campaner to approve the meeting agenda as posted. **Motion passed by roll call vote 5-0**

Public comment: Laurie Sabol announced that the Friends will be meeting next Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Approval of meeting minutes: no changes made

Motion: A motion was made by Sue Kennndy and seconded by Debra Faust-Clancy to approve the meeting minutes from February 25, 2021. **Motion passed by roll call vote 5-0**

Agenda Item: Reports

Treasurer: Sue Kennedy explained that the checking accounts have been moved to checking with interest accounts by Ayer Town Treasurer, Barbara Tierney.

Motion: A motion was made by Debra Faust-Clancy and seconded by Cyndi Lavin to approve the Treasurer's report. **Motion passed by roll call vote 5-0**

Director: Director Tim Silva sent out a 3rd Quarter financial report on the operating budget, a report on the income taken in by the Friends, and the State Aid report in addition to his usual Director's report of activities.

Motion: A motion was made by Debra Faust-Clancy and seconded by Cyndi Lavin to approve the Director's report. **Motion passed by roll call vote 5-0**

Agenda Item: Trustee Recruitment

Maggie Durand is on the ballot for the Town Election. Tim received inquiry letters from several residents and sent them out to the Trustees. Debra suggested that Tim invite them to the next Board meeting. Sue Kennedy and Sharon Slarsky were appointed to the permanent positions in order to free up elected positions to which new candidates may be appointed.

Motion: A motion was made by Cyndi Lavin and seconded by Becky Campaner to appoint Sue Kennedy to a permanent position. **Motion passed by roll call vote 5-0**

Motion: A motion was made by Cyndi Lavin and seconded by Becky Campaner to appoint Sharon Slarsky to a permanent position. **Motion passed by roll call vote 5-0**

Agenda Item: COVID Operations

As requested by Sue Kennedy at the last Board meeting, the issue of reopening the Library was discussed. Tim Silva reported that vaccines are just beginning to be available for staff. His plan is to wait until staff has had the opportunity to receive vaccination, reunite the full staff, and practice the protocol for appointments before reopening. Priority appointments will be for computer access. He is thinking about how many patrons at a time and how long the appointments will be. Limited browsing would be next. Curbside and doorway service continues. Town Hall began their reopening process this week, with 15 minute appointments. Laurie Sabol asked if Tim would consider doing a PSA to update the community on these plans because of complaints. Sue Kennedy strongly requested that the Library be reopened sooner. The State announced that libraries could be open since March. Two-thirds of Ayer's close neighbors have opened their libraries. Sue remarked that there is no science suggesting that the Library needs to stay closed to patrons, and that July is too late as a target for reopening. Debra Faust-Clancy strongly agreed. Tim said that the opening needs to be flexible, but Becky Campaner reiterated the safety of masks and social distancing. She pointed out that the schools are fully open. The comparison was made with grocery stores which have remained open, with customers "browsing" the shelves and bringing their purchases up for checkout. Tim said that the Town Hall wants workers to have the chance to be vaccinated first. Sue requested that staff be brought back together by the end of April and the Library be reopened by mid-May, not July. Bob Gardner asked Tim to find out if Ayer's Town Counsel, K+P, has any guidance about vaccines. Debra reminded everyone that the Board, not the Town Hall, is responsible for the Library. Cyndi Lavin agreed that the Library needs to reopen as soon as safely possible, because complaints are beginning to be heard throughout the Town.

Agenda Item: Strategic Plan

Tim sent out a flow chart to the Board. There was no time for discussion.

Agenda Item: Director's Contract

Bob Gardner and Debra Faust-Clancy will be meeting in open session and going into executive session immediately on April 20, 2021 to discuss the new contract.

Next meeting: May 20, 2021, at 5:30pm

Adjournment:

Motion: A motion was made by Cyndi Lavin and seconded by Becky Campaner to adjourn at 6:30 pm. **Motion passed by roll call vote 6-0**

RECEIVED
MAR 24 2022
TOWN OF AYER
TOWN CLERK