



Ayer Library Board Open Session Meeting Minutes: April 28, 2022

Sharon Slarsky, president, presiding. Meeting called to order at 6:04 pm
Trustees present: Becky Campaner, Maggie Durand, Susan Kennedy – treasurer,
Cyndi Lavin – secretary, Rebecca Myers, Sharon Slarsky – president, Robert Gardner
Trustees absent: Debra Faust-Clancy,
Also present: Deb Pedrazzi – Prospective Board member, Barbara Cheeks – Head of
Adult Services, Samantha Benoit – Assistant Director, Laurie Sabol – Friends of the
Ayer Library

Agenda Items: Call to Order

Review and approval of agenda: No changes

Motion: A motion was made by Becky Campaner and seconded by Cyndi Lavin to
approve the agenda. Vote: unanimous

Approval of Meeting Minutes: No changes made

Motion: A motion was made by Becky Campaner and seconded by Maggie Durand
to approve the meeting minutes from March 17, 2022. Vote: unanimous

Announcements:

The next Town election is May 10. Rebecca Myers is running for the 3 year Trustee
position, and Deb Pedrazzi is running for the 1 year position.

At the Annual Town Meeting, the omnibus, ceiling repair, and CPC funds for
digitization all passed.

Agenda Items: Reports

Treasurer's Report: The only change in the accounts was interest received. Sue
Kennedy sent out all the invoices to get the Trustees caught up. She proposed that
"Monthly Invoice Report" be made a permanent agenda item so that the Trustees are
guaranteed to see the invoices. Assistant Director Samantha Benoit will email out the
proof sheets every 2 weeks as they become available.

Motion: A motion was made by Becky Campaner and seconded by Bob Gardner to
approve the Treasurer's report. Vote: unanimous

Motion: A motion was made by Sue Kennedy and seconded by Maggie Durand to
add the new agenda item to the monthly Trustees' meeting. Vote: unanimous

Director's Report:

Assistant Director Samantha Benoit reported that attendance is increasing both in
patrons browsing the stacks and to programs. The seed library is very popular.
Curbside pickup is down, perhaps only 3% of circulation, but other patrons still use it
to check the message boards and pick up flyers. It was felt that as long as there were
still patrons who felt safer using the shed for pickup, it would remain.

Becca Kranz is a new hire in the Children's Room. She is concentrating on programs
for the 8 to 12 year olds.

The hours that the Library is open are now increasing. They temporarily went down from 41 to 35 hours/week, but they are now going back up to 38 hours/week. The increase is on Wednesday evenings (closing at 8pm instead of 6pm) and Saturday mornings (opening at 9am instead of 10am).

Motion: A motion was made by Cyndi Lavin and seconded by Bob Gardner to approve the Director's report. Vote unanimous

Agenda Item: Old Business

Director search: No one is available through BiblioTemps to fill in as interim director, but they will do the director search. The job description has been posted. Sharon Slarsky passed out a sheet to fill out for Amanda, who will be handling our search. There were also sample interview questions, and the Trustees should let Amanda know what to use/not use/add for the initial screenings. Trustees who expressed interest in conducting the interviews with the candidates sent by BiblioTemps: Rebecca, Sue, Deb, Sharon, and Bob. Sue suggested that it might be wise to also invite a director from another Library to help.

Agenda Item: New Business

Social Media Policy: Samantha presented the policy that the Library has been successfully following. There were a few minor changes requested, including spelling out Facebook rather than using the abbreviation.

Motion: A motion was made by Becky Campaner and seconded by Bob Gardner to approve the Social Media Policy with those few changes. Vote unanimous

Trustee orientation plan: Sharon requested that each Trustee receive the full binder of information. Cyndi suggested that everyone get on the listserv if not already receiving the emails from MBLC. She will send out the link to everyone.

In-house directory: Sharon requested that a Directory of Staff and Trustees be put together just for in-house use, in preparation for a new Director.

Book-banning culture: A short discussion took place about the increasing prevalence of book banning across the country. It was noted that public libraries are different from school libraries, and that the Ayer Library has a procedure for those who find a book objectionable. Samantha and Barbara reported that there have been very few complaints. The Trustees expressed their support of the book selection process that the Library uses, and their support of the staff in general. Sue reported on some online discussions that she followed, and noted that one nationally contested book was reported to be extremely helpful and important to those who read it.

Agenda Item: Public comment

Laurie Sabol posed two questions about the Director's search process. Will the Friends of the Library Board and the Ayer community be asked for feedback

on hiring a new Director? And who will be on the interview committee?
The initial search for a new Director is being conducted by BiblioTemps, and information about this will be on the Ayer Library website and Facebook page. Top candidates picked by this first round of screening will be interviewed by members of the Trustees' Board, not yet determined. Much of the information being used for screening is available to BiblioTemps from the extensive surveying of the community done for the Five Year Plan. Interviews of top candidates will be conducted in open meeting sessions, and anyone can attend. With permission of the Chair, Sharon Slarsky, members of the public can ask questions, time permitting.

Next Meetings: May 19, 2022 at 6:00pm
June 23, 2022 at 6:00pm
July 21, 2022 at 6:00pm

Adjournment:

Motion: A motion was made by Becky Campaner and seconded by Maggie Durand to adjourn meeting at 8:00pm. Vote unanimous

