

  
11/9/23

## **Ayer Library Board Open Session Meeting Minutes: September 14, 2023**

Sharon Slarsky, president, presiding. Meeting called to order at 6:00pm  
Trustees present: Maggie Durand, Becky Campaner – vice president, Cyndi Lavin – clerk, Sharon Slarsky – president, Robert Gardner, Andrew Wilson, Brenda Richard  
Trustees absent: Susan Kennedy – treasurer, Rebecca Myers  
Also present: Luke Kirkland – Director, Laurie Sabol – Friends of the Ayer Library, Laurie Nehring – PACE

### **Agenda Item: Call to Order**

**Review and approval of agenda:** No changes

**Motion:** A motion was made by Cyndi Lavin and seconded by Andy Wilson to accept the agenda. Vote: unanimous

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** No changes

**Motion:** A motion was made by Becky Campaner and seconded by Bob Gardner to approve the meeting minutes from July 13, 2023. Vote: unanimous

### **Agenda Item: Public Comment**

Laurie Nehring reported that the PFAS study is closing. Ayer was able to test 300+ adults, but like most towns, not enough children. Laurie asked if nature programs and the like, sponsored by PACE would be considered for use of the meeting room. The question was deferred since it is on the agenda, but the general consensus was that these would be eligible programs. Laurie asked if the Library would consider staying open late for programs, and the general feeling was no.

### **Agenda Items: Reports**

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Sue Kennedy was absent

**Director's Report:** Luke shared the highlights

The Summer Reading program came to a very satisfactory end.

The staff has stabilized.

The 20 year old boiler is leaking. Luke had a meeting with Facilities Director Chuck Shultz. There is rust and deterioration, and a small leak. The part to fix it is no longer made. Of course. The best course of action is to replace the boiler (at ~ \$48.5k) and then to make sure maintenance is done regularly and properly. The boiler will probably/hopefully continue to work for the 16 weeks needed to get the replacement. They may use boiler sealant in the meantime. It is uncertain how long it will then take to install the new boiler. Luke will go to the Select Board to discuss funding on September 19, 2023.

The Library will be using Capital Fund money to patch the roof within the next few weeks. Within 5 years, the entire roof will need to be replaced; the current work is

just a patch.

Potholes in the parking lot were fixed by the DPW. The sidewalks will be repaired in the spring.

The new book drop arrived.

Luke highlighted areas in process on the Strategic Plan.

Luke reported that the Ayer Shirley schools currently have no head librarian. Ayer Library has wanted a closer working relationship, and is helping out in several ways in the meantime.

Circulation, attendance at programs, and other numbers are in a good place right now.

Professional development classes were taken by Luke, Barbara, Raye, and Amy.

The Fall Town Meeting will be October 23, 2023.

The Friends of the Ayer Library have funded more museum passes that didn't line up with the fiscal year. Author Emily Sweeney will be doing a fundraising program at the Bull Run on September 17, 2023.

On October 11, 2023, there will be a demonstration and viewing with the new telescope.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Becky Campaner and seconded by Maggie Durand to approve the Director's report. Vote: unanimous

#### **Agenda Item: New Business**

Director Evaluation: Sharon Slarsky presented the results of the evaluation, and there were no surprises. Luke wanted to clarify the comment that was made on the Meeting Room Policy, that it had been a process that required attendance at multiple workshops and also involved several other policies at the same time.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Becky Campaner and seconded by Maggie Durand to accept the Director's evaluation report. Vote: unanimous

#### **FY24 Officer Election:**

Sharon Slarsky will continue as Acting Chair until next meeting when all members can attend.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Sharon Slarsky and seconded by Becky Campaner to appoint Andrew Wilson as Vice Chair. Vote: unanimous

**Motion:** A motion was made by Cyndi Lavin and seconded by Andrew Wilson to appoint Brenda Wilson as Treasurer. Vote: unanimous

**Motion:** A motion was made by Becky Campaner and seconded by Bob Gardener to appoint Cyndi Lavin as Clerk. Vote: unanimous



Holiday Policy update: Luke added clarifying language to the policy to try to make it more consistent. There was a discussion on the number of Saturday closures.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Cyndi Lavin and seconded by Andrew Wilson to accept the updated Holiday Policy. Vote: unanimous

Presentation of New Policies: Luke presented the following policy updates, which will be voted on at the next meeting: Patron Conduct Policy, Reading Room Policy, Study Room Policy. The old 2014 Meeting Room Policy will be scrapped, as the room is now the Young Adult Room.

**Next Meetings:**

October 12, November 9, December 14

**Adjournment:**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Becky Campaner and seconded by Bob Gardner to adjourn meeting at 7:53 pm. Vote: unanimous