

Meeting Acushnet Public Library Board of Trustees

January 12, 2021 (Zoom) at 12 p.m.

In attendance: Jennifer Alves, Chair

Dina Brasseur, Library Director

Diane Ferreira

Nancy Francis

Danielle Guillemette

Jeri Howland, Secretary

Stephen Reale

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Secretary's Report

A motion was made by Stephen to accept the secretary's report from December 22, 2020 and was seconded by Diane. All voted (by roll call) in favor.

Budget Report

We are half-way through the fiscal year and have spent 54.9%. The material line is already 90% spent out. When the funds are fully spent the library will start using state aid, the revolving fund, a gift account and \$1,000 donated this year by the Friends to purchase material. Nancy moved to accept the budget and Diane seconded. All voted (by roll call) in favor.

Old Business

The library is still working under the phased reopening plan with a skeleton crew per the BOS until January 23rd with no other changes expected in the immediate future. Some days are challenging and even though it is tough to keep up the staff is coping very well.

New Business

The draft of the annual report was discussed. It is included in the booklet at the town meeting every year. Copies are available at the library and other town offices and are often used as a reference for town information. Dina spent a lot of time on the report this year to reflect on how different and challenging it has been, as well as highlighting everything done in the library in 2020.

Diane commented that it should be noted in "new ways to use the library" that all of these changes were due to the Covid 19 pandemic restrictions. Dina will add that information to the final draft.

All members of the BOT were impressed by Dina's outstanding job on this report.

It is discouraging and disappointing that the statistics are back to the numbers from five years ago. People are still using the library and getting used to having the library staff browse for them but it is not the same as browsing for themselves. However, there was an increase in the Overdrive/Libby app and Hoopla.

The library has had success with the Beanstack software. A modest goal was set in the summer and was increased several times. At the end of December, Acushnet readers had logged in 130,000 minutes! Beanstack was purchased by the state using grant funds. When the program ends, the library will consider purchasing it with its own money.

The annual numbers from SAILS have just arrived and Dina will be adding them as well as the Library's web address to the final version of the annual report. Since they didn't make it into the draft, Dina reviewed the collection counts. The library has: 22,400 books, 75 periodicals, 3,531 DVDs, 613 audio titles and 49,539 digital titles (doesn't include hoopla).

Nancy moved to accept the 2020 annual report and Diane seconded. All voted (by roll call) in favor.

Director's Report

From June to December 2020, the library circulated 20,355 items and 1,122 make-and-take kits were distributed. The lost items list is down to 98 items (it was 188 at the beginning of December). Dina credits sending letters by mail for getting a lot of the remaining items returned.

There are two new reading challenges for January 2021 and Sandra is responsible for setting these up. The first is "Get Snowed In" and the second is "Books Like Us" which focuses on diversity. For every 15 minutes of reading time logged in on Beanstack a snowball is placed on the windows at the Library. So far readers have completed 6,912 minutes in January. Some parents have told staff that Beanstack has made a difference in their children's reading, especially because of the digital badges. Wildcat badges can also be earned.

The next Zoom meeting of the Board of Trustees will be Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at noon.

Nancy moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:33 p.m. and Stephen seconded. All voted (by roll call) in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeri Howland

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