

Meeting Acushnet Public Library Board of Trustees

October 20, 2020 (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 Nancy to accept the secretary's report from September 15, 2020 and was seconded by Stephen. All voted in favor.

Budget Report

The budget report submitted today is accurate to date. Operating has been 65% spent which is slightly higher this time of year due to the increased spending on materials. Stephen moved to accept the budget report and Danielle seconded. All voted in favor.

Phased Reopening Plan

Dina had hoped that by this time in the year, she would be talking about opening up the library for browsing, but since Acushnet is now a high-risk community, the library will continue operating as is for now. The take-out service is working well and 7500 items have been checked out. The Town Administrator and Board of Health support the library staying closed for browsing. New Bedford has opened up two branches but no other neighboring libraries have opened. Acushnet is also doing computer service by appointment only. There have been a limited number of computer appointments as sometimes the librarians can do what is needed. The library has been the go-to source for years for forms, resumes, etc. and staff is trying to continue this even with the library building closed.

Financial Report

The Financial Report, which is the second report sent to the MBLC has been submitted. Acushnet met the requirements for state aid:

1. Met minimum appropriation requirement (average of last 3 years and small increase)
2. Open to all residents of Massachusetts
3. No charge for normal library services
4. Open for 40 hours/week
5. Director has a Masters in Library Science
6. Lend to other libraries in the state
7. Filled out the correct forms

8. Spend at least 16% of the budget on materials.

The amount of state aid is usually available in December but this year it will be later and there will be no disbursement until February or March instead of January.

Director's Report

The library is still offering take-out and computer service is available by appointment. Nothing has changed since last month. The library is busy with phone calls, emails, and social media. The take-out service is very time consuming and the librarians are getting to know the patrons better. Staff is present in the library 60 hours/week.

Progress is being made on the Beanstack challenge to read 100,000 minutes by the end of the year. To date, over 80,000 reading minutes have been logged in. All information on this is on the library website.

Dina will be speaking to the Board of Selectmen to highlight the many things that the library is doing. Some of the things she will discuss are computer use, increased use by homeschooling families and how the library affects every age group in town.

It seems that Elizabeth has fixed the computer problems!

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at noon.

Nancy moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:37 p.m. and Diane seconded. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeri Howland

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