

Meeting Acushnet Public Library Board of Trustees

November 10, 2020 (zoom) at 12 p.m.

In attendance (roll call): Jennifer Alves, Chair

Dina Brasseur, Library Director

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 October 20, 2020 and was seconded by Stephen. All voted (by roll call) in favor.

Budget Report

At this time, the salary line is 20.2% spent and the total for operations is 69.6% spent. Both are as expected. A motion was made by Stephen to accept the budget report and Nancy seconded. All voted (by roll call) in favor.

Old Business

Nothing has changed with the phased reopening plan. Acushnet has just moved from red to yellow but the case counts are still high. The town needs to be out of red for at least a few weeks for the library to even consider being open for browsing. There has been an uptick in computer appointments since articles were published in three newspapers about that service. The takeout service is still going well and 8,400 items have been checked out. Craft kits are also doing well and are available all month.

New Business

CreativeBug

Dina is looking into a subscription database service called CreativeBug. Other neighboring libraries are using this website for craft-like activities for their patrons and the feedback has been very positive. It is associated with Joanne's Craft Stores but there is no requirement to purchase supplies there. CreativeBug contains thousands of videos for all ages, skill levels and subjects and there are no advertisements. The teachers are professionals and patterns are available to download. Every month there are 35 new videos. The subscription fee for one year is \$1000. If the library decides to subscribe now for next year, the rest of this year would be included with no additional fee. The subscription contains public performance rights so the library could present craft programs in the library community room if in-person programming resumes in 2021. The Friends of the Library have already agreed to sponsor some kits of materials to use with the videos. This is a good use of state aid (there is money left since no programs were held this year). The site can be accessed through an app or on a computer. You would enter through the library website to use it. There is no limit to the number of users or videos to

watch. You can revisit videos , bookmark where you stopped watching and make notes. . The patrons of the Rochester and Marion libraries love it. Stephen moved to authorize the purchase and Nancy moved to second it. All voted (by roll call) in favor of the purchase.

Thanksgiving

When the library staff merged with the town hall employee union, the Thanksgiving holiday schedule became an issue. The library hours are different from the town hall hours but still following the same holiday schedule. This year, the library will follow the contract and will be open for a half day on Wednesday (11 a.m.—2 p.m.), closed on Thursday and Friday and then back open regular hours on Saturday. The Town Administrator would like to have the library hours stated in the next Union contract since they are different from all other Town Departments.

Director's Report

There are 229 overdue items still out some of them since September 2019. The public is responding to calls and emails for them to be returned. In late November/December the library will be sending out mail notices to anyone still holding overdue items. The Board of Trustees previously waived all fines through December 31, 2020 so no fines will be due. At the next meeting of the Board of Trustees, the date to waive fees may be extended even further. Dina is planning to check with other libraries to see if they are charging fines.

Library patrons have logged 113,893 minutes on the Beanstack challenge! They have surpassed the goal the library set for 100,000 minutes. There will be no new challenge this year but there will be a new challenge for 2021.

There has been a large (sustained) increase in e-content this year.

We will discuss the annual action plan at the next meeting.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees meeting will be Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at noon on zoom

Nancy moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:35 p.m. and Stephen seconded. All voted (by roll call) in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeri Howland

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