

**Abington Public Library  
Board of Library Trustees**

Meeting Minutes                      July 17, 2023                      Called to Order 7:00 pm

**Attendees:** Henry DiCarlo, Chair  
                  Gail Bergin, Vice Chair  
                  Laura Brink  
                  Sue Crowley  
                  Gerry Haas  
                  Jake O’Neill  
                  Deborah Grimmett, Library Director

**Absent:**     Carrie Murray  
                  Barbara McLaughlin  
                  Mary Gillis

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

- Minutes of the meeting held on June 12, 2023 were reviewed by the Board.  
**MOTION to approve the June 12, 2023 minutes was made by Sue, seconded by Gerry, and accepted unanimously with Jake abstaining .**

**Chairman’s Report**

- Daylily Sale – The sale was busy but not a record showing. The proceeds will benefit the Garden Maintenance fund along with three other groups in Abington. Huge thanks go out to the Hernandez family for the entire family volunteering.
- Dudley Mass Closure – Budget cuts made by the town were so severe that the library trustees have made the difficult decision to close the library.
- Chris Cronin passed away and the wake is in August. He was a long-time volunteer and book club member in Abington. Former employee Nancy Cannon also passed away. Trustees signed a card for Nancy’s family.

## **Library Director's Report**

- Monthly Financial and Statistical Reports: At the close of last fiscal year, we went a little over budget in salaries and expenses but all costs will be covered by State Aid. June was a busy month. The year-end statistics have not been completed but there was an increase compared to the previous year.
- Friends Update: The Friends are on summer hiatus but were able to sell books at the summer reading kick-off and made about \$40.
- Deb's laptop is no longer working and will be replaced as soon as possible.

## **Building Issues**

- Boiler: The boiler is no longer functioning. Deb reached out to the town manager for an update on the bid process.
- AC Issues: Water was noticed on the floor near the AC units in the attic and Deb had the maintenance company visit. The unit is leaking from the bottom and not going into the drip pan so it is puddling on the floor. Replacing the drip pan would require dismantling the units and would take about 5 days at a cost of approximately \$50,000. They did a temporary work around but some of the water is still going onto the floor so staff, mainly Deb, Sandy, Heidi and Lynne, has been using a wet vacuum to clean up the floor while a more permanent solution is developed.
- Sheila's Garden Gate has been repaired.
- Window in the Children's room was repaired.
- The automatic door control has not been working properly and will be repaired.

## **Current Library Issues**

- OCLN Library Crawl Update: 100 passports were turned in to Abington. Feedback was positive for Abington Library staff and were described as friendly and they loved the building. There will be some modifications to how it is run next year.
- LSTA Grant Application Status: The grant was approved in the amount of \$15,000. Congratulations goes out to the staff for a successful application.

Programming will begin October 1<sup>st</sup> which will include scheduling people to talk about local, state and federal government and will include a banned book club.

- Summer Reading Program: Going well. Attendance has been up and a lot of reading is being tracked.
- Town Wage and Classification Study: The process is underway and the company completing the survey has been meeting with town employees across the pay range.

### Old Business

- Website Refresh: Library staff met with the company doing the work, PiperWebs. The cost to update the library website is \$1,300 and \$650/year to maintain including security measures. This version will be mobile friendly.

### New Business

- Geocaching: Library received a letter from a UMass student who is developing an App for students to use to visit the 351 towns in Massachusetts. They asked permission to include the library. **Motion made by Gerry to allow the library to be part of the Geocaching App once Dep verifies the background of the student and the program and seconded by Jake. It was accepted unanimously.**
- Library Assistants: Several applications have been received. Deb is checking references on one applicant and is ready to make an offer in the coming week.
- Public Computer Purchase: The library will use State Aid to replace 6 public internet computers and replace the public sign-up computer which is the oldest in the building. Deb will get pricing from Wayne.

**Next Meeting: September 11, 2023 at 7pm.**

**Motion to adjourn at 8:31 pm was made by Gerry, seconded by Laura and accepted unanimously.**