

DIGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES
September 9, 2021
6:30 PM

Due to the increasing concern surrounding the Coronavirus pandemic, this meeting was open to the public through the Zoom Conferencing platform. A recording of the meeting was aired on Comcast Local TV 9 and posted on the Town of Dighton YouTube Channel.

Call to Order Trustee Meeting Started at 6:35.

This was a hybrid meeting with public participation through with Zoom.

Roll Call – In-person participants: Ron O’Connor, Chair; EveMarie Cabral, trustee; Rita Araujo, trustee; Jocelyn Tavares, library director

Members of the public present participating by Zoom: Michael Mullen, Town Administrator.

With a virtual meeting, a roll call vote should be taken, so that it is absolutely clear what the outcome of the vote is. The meeting must be completely audible. The meeting is recorded.

Minutes of the June 9 and August 5 are not complete. Item tabled.

Old Business

- Library Operations: Ron and Rita both thanked the library staff for their work. Jocelyn added that the staff has gone above and beyond to get us where we are today. The Highway Department has gone above and beyond as well.
 - First week of operations at the Lower Level of Town Hall is underway. Still a bit of back and forth between the library and town hall, but the library is functional. We still don’t have phones at town hall and we need to staff Main Street because the phone has not been transferred yet. Right now we are maintaining continuity of curbside hours and will keep them.
 - State Aid Workshop at the Massachusetts Board of Library Commisiosners (MBLC) says we are meeting the requirements to be open for 38 weeks.
 - We are expecting modular unit to be ready a little later. There is still site work to be done; settling of grounds for stairwell and parking. Shelving is going up.
 - We are hopeful to move some library materials next week. Staff continue to select materials to move and pack.
 - Most patrons understand situation and are good-natured and sympathetic.
 - Discussion of in-person programming include health and safety considerations with the Delta variant uptick and local conditions. Outdoor programming is being planned.
- Still waiting to hear about the five laptops for federal grant. The laptops would need to have software installed and put security features in place.
- CARES grant is complete – all programs are finished. Now focusing on the final reporting required. The Libraries Transforming Communities grant requires a community conversation, will hold discussion on affordable housing and the forms it could take. It could include all of the housing development: the pros of affordable housing with the cons of the rapid growth impacts in town. Jocelyn explained Access Video on Demand purchase with these grant funds.

New Business

- Statistics discussed. July and August includes the outreach in the parks. Circulation numbers are not pre-covid levels but they are rebounding. Online resources continue to be steady. Discussed new products that have been added, and those that have been discontinued. Ron congratulated Lorie on the successful park outreach.
- Ron volunteered to sign payroll and bills on Friday.
- Tabled draft letter to Ms. Allie, on agenda as a reminder. She did report she met with Selectman Hull about issues she raised in the letter.

Questions/Input

- Ms. Gailes asked about what would happen to the current building. Town Administrator Mullen is waiting for drawings from the engineer and architect. The expectation is that work can be done in-house, but there is no start date. Staff need to do a lot of preparations for any work to happen.

Friends

- Special Meeting for the Friends coming Thursday, September 16. The focus would be on how to support the library with the Friends's advocacy efforts. The Friends want to keep the positive impacts of the library in the public's minds.

Personnel

Correspondence

Upcoming Programs

- Jocelyn discussed upcoming programs.

Adjournment Rita moved to adjourn the meeting. Ron seconded.

Rita Araujo: Aye

Ron O'Connor: Aye

Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 7:23.