

Library Board of Trustees Meeting
March 15, 2022 Minutes

Attendees: Trustees Chris Untersee, Betty Chelmow, Emily Prigot, Jan Chamberlain, Susan Cogliano (via zoom), Nancy Connery, Director Andrea Capone
Absent: Peg Mead, Joan Schottenfeld

Vice Chair George Comeau chaired the meeting in Chair Peg Meade's absence.

The February 15, 2022 minutes were approved by unanimous vote after a motion by Emily Prigot and a second by Betty Chelmow to approve.

Personnel Update

Director Capone was pleased to report that Ashley Perry had begun training as Reference Librarian. She will be taking over for Patricia Ryburn when she leaves on March 19th. She additionally reported that she was happy to let the trustees know that the Young Adult Librarian will be returning from her leave on April 4th and that recent hire Will Whearty is doing very well with his training at the circulation desk.

At this time the library is fully staffed, though one position is held by a long term substitute in the Jr. Room.

The library staff are going to receive professional development training on April 8th. A vote is required by the Trustees to close the library in order to provide this training.

A motion was made to approve by Betty Chelmow, seconded by Emily Prigot and unanimously approved.

Library Services Discussion

Room capacity limits are currently set to half of their previous numbers. This is a standing item to be re-evaluated monthly with the board, there will be no changes this month and will be on next month's agenda.

Director's Report

February is Women's History Month. Please stop by the library to check out our wonderful displays of books and materials by women authors and about Women's History. There are materials for all ages, including a wonderful display in our lobby and Young Adult section.

As health conditions steadily improve in our community, the library has experienced a resurgence in usage. The library as a physical space is vitally important to our community and library staff are thrilled to see patrons returning to the building again. It is a good problem to have, when all the tables in the Jr. Room are full again!

Library borrowing trends are increasing as foot traffic picks up. In February 14,692 physical materials were checked out. E-Books and E-Audio books are also exceedingly popular and 6,261 have been checked out over the past month. We welcomed 101 new library card holders in February, more than twice the number we saw the previous month.

Our children's library staff have been hard at work planning exciting events and activities for children and their caregivers. This April vacation week we will be hosting an in person craft Tuesday through Saturday at 2:30PM. No registration is required. Check out our story times which are running in person three times each week. Some of the toys and puzzles in the children's library have returned and are a big hit with our youngsters. The Homework Center continues to serve tweens and teens with meetings three times each week.

Budget Report

The budget is on track for spending. The library has met with the Finance Committee, Capital Planning Committee, and Select Board to present our budget.

Friends of the Library Update

The Friends of the Library held several events during the month of February. We are grateful for their hard work on fundraising for the library. The leadership of the Friends will be invited to participate in a focus group with our Strategic Planning Consultant in April. Kevin Boyce and Richa Dixit offered to take the lead this year with Mike Sundin helping to transition them. Entrants will be accepted from April through Mid May and Awards Ceremony will be held during the week of June 13th. Mike is working with Ashley about organizing an every day book sale that interested teens will help support.

Strategic Planning Committee

The planning process is underway. The Trustees, Friends, and other key stakeholder groups will be asked to participate in the process and surveys and focus groups will be launched in April.

Interior Renovation Committee

The Subcommittee has met and the designers are working on the plans for further review.

Canton Reads

Throughout the month of April we look forward to our community wide reading program, where Canton will connect through conversations and activities centered around a common book.

“How To Be A Good Creature”, by Sy Montgomery is a collection of short essays about the animals that have enriched the author’s life, and that have taught her valuable lessons on how to be a “good creature” herself. She writes: “All you have to do is recognize them as teachers and be ready to hear their truths”.

Check out your copy from the library today!

Upcoming Programs and Events:

Attached is a list of programs for our April Canton Reads program. Please make sure you mark your calendar for April 27th at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom for our Author event with Sy Montgomery. We are grateful for the support of our Friends of the Canton Public Library and their support for these events!

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Connery, Secretary



Canton Reads

— presents —



Community Room
02 April
Understanding Your Cat with Dr. Rachel Geller
2:00-4:00pm



Online
06 April & 20 April
Nature Writing Workshop with Mass Audubon
6:30-8:30pm



Community Room
09 April
Author Chris McLaughlin: Mississippi Barking Book Talk & Signing
2:00-3:00pm

Online
11 April
Chickens in the Garden with Gretel Anspach
7:00-8:30pm



Online
12 April
Getting Started with Birdwatching
7:00-8:00pm



Online
20 April
Giant Ocean Tank Encounter presented by the New England Aquarium
4:00-4:30pm



Online
21 April
Stories from Sunny Meadow Animal Sanctuary
7:00-8:00pm



Community Room
25 April
Canton Reads Community Book Discussion
7:00-8:00pm

Online
27 April
Author Sy Montgomery on How To Be A Good Creature
7:00-8:00pm



Visit: www.library.canton.ma.us for a detailed list of events and to register!

