



OBSERVER REPORT

ABBOT LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES: January 4, 2021

LWVM Observers: Nancy Powell and Brigitte Lagoutte

Member in attendance: Phyllis Smith, Nancy Arata, Ann McGreevy, Gary Amberik, David Ross, Laurie Flowers, EuRim Chun, Wayne Stemmer, Patti Rogers, Joanne McElhenny.

Meeting held on zoom and open to the public.

1. Minutes of the December 7th, 2020 meeting were approved

2. Abbot Public Library Fund, Inc. (APLF) (Wayne Stemmer)

- A. Approval of the December 7th minutes

- B. Financial report: Treasurer of the Board of Trustees, David Ross has been replaced by Laurie Flowers. She is trying to understand the different categories of the account. David remains a member of the Trustees.

The resolution from the bank, which allows Laurie to have access to the library accounts was voted and approved by the Trustees.

3. Director's Report (Patti Rogers)

The open browsing at the library has stopped due to the resurgence of Covid.

The curbside service is working well and is very successful.

The insurance company has insisted that we have sensors put on sump pumps that will alert the Fire Dept after hours. They will be installed tomorrow January 5th.

Patti said that we have ongoing expenses in the library because we keep putting toward repairing systems rather than replacing them.

4. Financial Report:(David Ross)

\$18,904 from Shattuck Fund is available

\$6,259 have been allotted to buy new chairs. The chairs have not been bought yet because we need a place to store them.

5. Chairman Report: (Nancy Arata)

The dates of the future Board meetings are as follow: February 1st, March 1st, April 5th, May 3rd (maybe changed if Town meeting is on that date), June 7th, July 5th (may be changed because of July 4th).

Before Christmas, 32 postcards were sent to donors who have pledged in the campaign, and to donors who have given \$10K or more to thank them for their support and alert them that the Board of Trustees will be bringing our warrant to Town Meeting this May for support and renovation. Filing for the warrant has to be sent before January 21st. The total cost estimate is \$9.5 Million, and 1 Million is provided by the Library Fund (APLF. Inc.).

David Ross, Treasurer, and Phyllis Smith are the 2 Trustees whose terms are up in June this year. David Ross who was Treasurer, has been replaced, and he has not indicated his decision to run again at this point. Phyllis Smith has indicated she will not run again. We need to think about a person to replace her. S/he should be a committed person having time to dedicate to the Board as the new year might be busy.

The library policy regarding the open browsing in the library will follow the school protocol schedule. Open browsing is now off. When on, we allow only 24 persons at a time inside the library.

6. Building Renovations Committee (BRC)

Johnsons Roberts Associates proposal for renovations has been accepted by the Board. Becky Curran (Town Planner) needs to be contacted to review it.

7. Selection Committee (EuRim Chun)

Library Head position to replace Patti Rogers is alive and posted. We are doing a national search using the Library Jobline and are contacting different library directors. Joanne McElhenny and EuRim Chun wrote the job description. The job interviews will begin on March 1st.

8. Friends update
nothing to report

9. Mass. Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) update
nothing to report

10. Public Participation

Jim Zissen congratulated the Board on the override. He said he had a good experience with curbside service.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm.