



OBSERVER REPORT

Abbot Library Board of Trustees: Monday March 1st, 2021

LWVM Observer: Brigitte Lagoutte

Members in attendance: Nancy Arata, Phyllis Smith, Ann McGreevy, Gary Amberik, David Ross, Laurie Flowers, EuRim Chun Also Present: Wayne Stemmer from the Abbot Library Fund and Patti Rogers, Director

Meeting on Zoom and open to the public.

Abbot Public Library Fund, Inc. (Wayne Stemmer)

a. Minutes of the February 1st, 2021 meeting, were approved

b. 2 committees were appointed: one for the by-laws and one for planning the Fund for the future. The Fund is considering changing its by-laws. It will need the help of an attorney at the approaching time.

The APLF, Inc. looked at the by-laws and the best practices of the Concord and Wellesley public libraries foundations.

The Fund received a check of \$75,000 from a donor estate and another \$25,000 will come soon from the same source.

A second \$26,000 was received as a bequest from Grayce Arthur through the Guardian Foundation in Andover.

They'll need additional volunteers to help develop the Fund: particularly helpful would be a lawyer, professional fundraiser and a marketing person. The President asked the Board to think about possible recruits.

Director's report (Patti Rogers)

The heating system will receive a short-term fix and is now working hopefully for another 2 winter and summer seasons.

The Marblehead Fire Department needs to be involved as a second recipient of the alarm in case of an emergency with the flooding in the library. The Board totally support the idea and the Director will follow up with the town Manager to review that recommendation.

Financial report:

a. The first preliminary 2022 Budget meeting took place on February 25th with the Fin Comm. The second will be held on March 22nd for final review of the 2022 library budget.

There was also a discussion about the renovation campaign and the override request for Town Meeting this May 3rd. The Fin Comm. group particularly liked the pie chart graphing the costs. This is being created to be shown at the Town Meeting in May. The material provided by the Board to the Fin Comm. is being reviewed and updated.

b. A walk through the library was done by two Trustees on February 18th and they were able to see how the browsing is accommodated in different parts of the library during the pandemic. Starting on April 8th, browsing will happen once a week to gauge interest by the public. If there is enough interest, it will be increased. The staff is working to continue Curbside service at the same time. The safety of staff will guide the progress.

c. The Driftwood Garden Club which takes care of the grounds around the library, would like to organize a plant sale on the lawn and parking lot of the library. The date will be Saturday May 22nd, 2021 and the sale will take place from 12 to 3pm. The club members need the space from 8am to 5pm on Saturday for preparation and cleanup. The Board voted in favor of the sale at the date and time mentioned.

d. The May meeting of the Board has been changed to May 10th to accommodate the Town meeting on May 3rd.

e. There was discussion about Town meeting strategy: the library needs to be specific and show how the public is going to benefit from the renovations. The truth needs to be told that our library infrastructure is crumbling and in urgent need or replacement.

f. A zoom meeting sponsored by the Trustees will be organized in April for our donors.

Building Renovations Committee report (BRC) (Gary Amberick)

The BRC committee had a meeting on February 11th and discussed the presentation they will do at the town meeting regarding aspects of the design. A second meeting with the architect and engineer was held on February 18th, when the HVAC system was reviewed, and the budget discussed. The architect will be part of the Warrant Meeting and possibly the Town Meeting presentation.

Selection Committee updates (EuRim Chun)

The Committee is on schedule in the recruitment of candidates and commend, the consultant, Joanne McElhenny, for her thoroughness and support. They are still in the resume gathering phase and will interview candidates soon. Their next meeting is on March 11th. Trustees will interview final candidates early April.

Friends updates/ Mass. Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC)updates:

Some trustees watched a great webinar on the MBLC website on how to plan a new library space.

The MBLC offers these webinars monthly with many interesting topics. They are free but do require pre-registration.