

Town Of Millbury
Meeting Minutes
Board of Trustees Millbury Public Library

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MILLBURY, MASS.

Date: 6/21/17

Time: 6:00pm

Location of the Meeting: Millbury Public Library Meeting Room

Meeting Type: Regular X Special Emergency

Present: Jeff Raymond, Carol Burke, Paul DiCicco, Bob Laut, Rita Sullivan, Stephanie Phillips, Christine Brady

Absent:

Call to Order: Paul DiCicco called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.

Minutes: Carol Burke made a motion to accept the minutes as written, Stephanie Phillips Richter seconded. Accepted unanimously.

Chairman's Minute: Paul DiCicco asked about the status of the roof leak at the library. Liz Valero responded that she's made a series of calls to look into the repairs. One vendor was uninterested in looking into the leak, another has not checked back. The library is still waiting on a quote. Liz Valero also noted a few visits from maintenance vendors. She is also working with the DPW on the sidewalk at the front door and on the Elm Street side repairs. Jeff Raymond noted that the Trustees need to make a decision about how proactive we're going to be about outdoor repairs; Bob Laut noted that this is what the Facilities Subcommittee needs to be focusing on.

Paul DiCicco also wanted to take some time to formalize the 2017-2018 year. The dates are as follows: 9/19, 10/20, 11/14, 12/12, 1/16, 2/20, 3/20, 4/17, 5/15, 6/19. Jeff Raymond asked about the wisdom of not having July/August meetings given the facilities issues, and Stephanie Phillips Richter noted that the Facilities Committee could meet during the summer and call special sessions as needed. It was decided that we would appoint that committee at this time, and, after some volunteering from the membership, Jeff Raymond moved that Rita Sullivan, Bob Laut, and Stephanie Phillips Richter be appointed to the Subcommittee, and Christine Brady seconded. Vote was unanimous, and the subcommittee will coordinate with the Town Hall to see what, if any, responsibility they have to comply with open meeting laws and such.

Director's Report: Summer Reading has kicked off, 60 kids have already signed up.

Liz Valero is heading up the 1984 book discussion on 6/28 at 6:30. Professor Kyle Moody, Ph.D will be presenting on "fake news" as part of the discussion.

Ann Dellair has had a number of programs, and they've been well attended on a whole. Lots of walk-ins, too.

The library has been very busy on a whole.

The library is also looking into the town consolidation of printing/copying services, as a vendor came in to take stock of the library inventory and it is believed that this might be a townwide municipal effort. The discussion as to the value of the proposition came to a point where there is discussion of replacing printers and copiers owned by the library. Jeff Raymond made a motion that the library not enter any agreement on this without the approval of the Board of Trustees. Stephanie Phillips Richter seconded. During discussion, Carol Burke noted that the company should be able to make their case to the board. Liz Valero noted some information in a similar contract regarding how projects are performed/executed when instituted townwide. Liz Valero will get more information from the Town Manager's office about this issue and present it to the board at a later date. A vote was taken on the motion, and was accepted unanimously.

Bob Laut noted that there appears to be a continued conflict with the role of the Board of Trustees in town between the Board and town leadership, and that we need to figure out exactly where the differing interpretation via the Charter sits. Bob Laut and Paul DiCicco will be working on figuring out a meeting with Millbury leadership to sort it out.

Paul DiCicco asked about the \$1,057 bill for window cleaning, and it was discussed.

Old Business: We discussed the Facilities Subcommittee during the Chairman's Minute.

Ann Dallair asked how the parade went, and Paul DiCicco spoke positively about the event.

The Yard Sale event was successful.

New Business: We will not be having a picnic this late summer.

Jeff Raymond spoke about a possible event for the library in October. Lenore Skenazy (reference article submitted to the Board: "Parenting Advice From America's Worst Mom," *New York Times*, 19 January 2015, https://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/01/19/advice-from-americas-worst-mom/?_r=0), author of *Free Range Kids*, is available to do an event about parenting in an age where parents are scared and paranoid. The fee for the program would be \$2,500, with half payable immediately to reserve the date. Carol Burke noted that the Library does have an endowment usable for situations like this, with money available to reserve the date if we want. Bob Laut asked about marketing, and we can work that out. Liz Valero also noted that there is money in the donation account for these purposes, and we could probably pay the retainer out of the donation account and replenish it with new donations. Christine Brady moved that we book this event, with payment of \$1,250 payable upon invoicing, for October 4. Bob Laut seconded, and the vote was unanimous. Jeff Raymond will head up the organization of this event.

Bob Laut asked about the way to access that donation money, and it was discussed a bit. Jeff Raymond also noted that the Board does not have a treasurer, but has the right to establish one. Bob Laut also asked about the Worcester endowment, and Carol Burke will get us some information on it.

Jeff Raymond asked about how much money we've taken in for library fines. Liz Valero gave some numbers, under \$3,000 for FY2015 and under \$4,000 for FY2016. She says "too much" money and time is spent by the staff on fine collection and notification. Jeff offered two articles to the board ("Op Ed: Eliminating Late Fines Simply Makes Sense," *Deseret News*, 28 May 2017, <http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865680898/Op-ed-Eliminating-late-fines-simply-makes-sense.html>; "Late? No Fine," *The Boston Globe*, 25 March 2012, http://archive.boston.com/news/local/articles/2012/03/25/some_greater_boston_libraries_are_dropping_fines_for_overdue_materials/) for discussion about outright abolishing fines at the library, arguing that the cost/benefit does not appear to be there and it may be a barrier to people using the facility and returning materials. Liz Valero noted that the amount of time and money being spent on collecting fines does not equal or even come in below the collection of the fines. Fine money also does not go to the library, but instead into the town coffers, which Stephanie Phillips Richter cited as a strong argument to stop collecting them altogether. Bob Laut noted that this policy change came across to him as a bit of a perverse benefit that only helps those who are late, and not those who are prompt about returns. Rita Sullivan agreed, also concerned about reinforcing a negative. Bob Laut also asked about the billing process, Liz Valero noted that patrons get two notices. A few members offered the idea of doing a trial run for a few months to see the results.

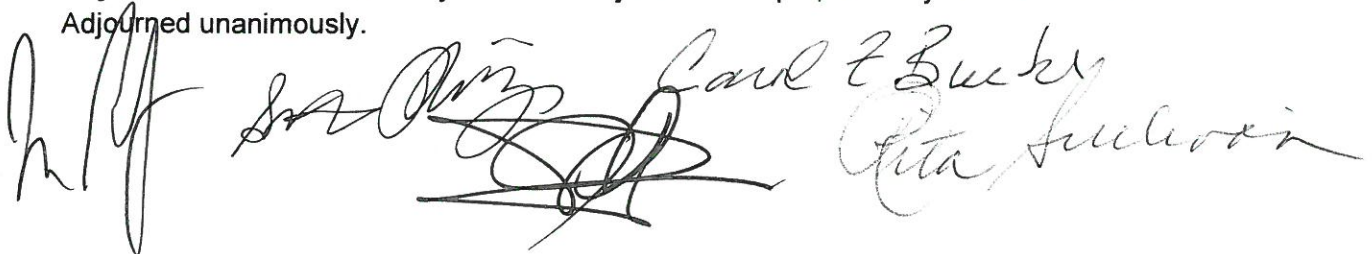
Paul DiCicco asked for the consensus of the group. Jeff Raymond spoke about feeling very strongly about abolishing library fines completely as opposed to a trial, as the cost and benefit to the library do not add up to any real benefit and it would be difficult to turn around and say the library was collecting fines again a few months later. After more back-and-forth, Jeff Raymond moved to have the library abolish fines as of July 15, with notification to the town hall immediately followed by publicity for the greater town. Stephanie Phillips Richter seconded the motion. With no further discussion, a vote was taken. Six votes were in favor, with Rita Sullivan opposed.

Jeff Raymond then made a motion to cover the new policy. He moved that, after three weeks past the due date, a bill for the late book is issued to the patron and the account is locked until the book is returned or the bill is settled. Paul DiCicco seconded. Bob Laut asked about the economics and the value of the books coming back at all, Liz Valero noted that the library always wants their books back, and it's a valuable thing. The Board voted, and six members were in favor of this change, with Rita Sullivan abstaining.

Liz Valero reminded us, during our summer break, to come in and sign vouchers.

Adjournment: Christine Brady moved to adjourn at 8:35pm, Jeff Raymond seconded.

Adjourned unanimously.

The image shows several handwritten signatures in black ink. From left to right, there is a signature that appears to be 'Liz Valero', followed by a signature that looks like 'Paul DiCicco', then a signature that is partially legible as 'Carol & Bucky', and finally a signature that is clearly 'Rita Sullivan'. The signatures are written in a cursive, somewhat stylized hand.