

Hudson Public Library
Board of Library Trustees Minutes
August 17, 2023 at 4:30 PM

Present: Tom Desmond, Mary McCormack, Aileen Sanchez-Himes, Lisa Aucoin, Dick Gelpke, and Maggie Crowley.

Meeting called to order at 4:30 PM.

MINUTES: June 15, 2023 minutes reviewed and approved. *Motion to accept by Mr. Desmond, seconded by Ms. McCormack.*

REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS

Communications & Publicity - The Trustees viewed Summer Experience materials and August's BookPage.

Expenditures - With it being the beginning of the fiscal year, there are no areas of concern. Since there are current staff vacancies, there may be personnel money remaining at the end of the year. The FY25 budget proposal is due in October.

Statistics - June and July statistics were reviewed. The AV numbers were down. Also, database usage was down, possibly due to the loss of internet and other consequences of the June lightning strike.

Friends of the Hudson Public Library - The Friends are not meeting this summer. The Lobster and Meat Shoot may not occur this year. Southwick Zoo passes have been opened to nonresidents. The summer book sale was successful.

Director's Report - Budget: The Library paid its annual CW MARS membership. The Trustees voted to spend up to \$10,000 of State Aid money to digitize more issues of the Hudson Sun. Personnel: Staff received cost of living increases on July 1. The Select Board approved Diane Richmond as Assistant Circulation Librarian. The Library has one vacant full-time position and two vacant part-time positions. The interview process is taking place for these positions. Library Services: Self-service holds will launch on September 1. New self-checkout equipment is in place. The hotspots are circulating well and the Library is adding to its Library of Things collection. The Library will offer workshops at the Senior Center starting this fall. Programs & Outreach: The Summer Experience has been successful, with over 1,000 participants and a variety of programs. The Library welcomed the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and the Boston Bruins Mascot for a summer event. The Library will partner with the

Board of Health to support arriving Haitian migrant families. Library Operations: The Library continues to balance print and digital material collections, while prioritizing popular materials. Staff are preparing for self-service holds, a makerspace, and next year's One Book One Hudson initiative. Library swag was purchased for outreach efforts. Building Maintenance: Staff area repairs are ongoing. A lightning strike affected some library equipment.

OLD BUSINESS

A new library website, while not fully live, is available through the Town website.

Reports summarizing analyses of the Library grounds and surrounding areas were distributed to the Trustees and will be reviewed to assess the feasibility of renovations/expansion on the current Library site.

The Trustees and administrative staff have met with library consultants who will partner with a local architect and perform a conditions assessment as part of the application process for the state Construction Grant process.

NEW BUSINESS

The ARIS report is complete and ready for submission to the MBLC. Despite weeding of the physical collection, increases in network and local digital holdings are bolstering offerings and circulation is up, including increased circulation to nonresidents.

A new facilities manager has started work. The Trustees voted to spend \$1100 of State Aid money on a deep cleaning of the Library this fall. Funds for future deep cleanings will be asked for through the Town budget.

MISCELLANEOUS Nothing to report.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is on September 21, 2023 at 4:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Aucoin