

Chair Keohane called the regular meeting to order at 5:06 p.m. The meeting was held as a teleconference meeting through Zoom technology as a result of the Covid-19 related order preventing gatherings. Also present were Trustees Elaine Alligood, Mark Carthy, Gail Mann, Corinne McCue Olmsted, and Mary Stearns and Director Peter Struzziero. One member of the Library staff, Gráinne Griffin, attended the meeting.

Minutes:

The Minutes of the Trustees' June 29th meeting were not reviewed.

Library Operations

Current Operations:

Director Struzziero reported on the parking lot procedure for distributing materials to patrons. Initially the library offered 48 pick-up slots and has increased it to 96 slots. Starting August 3 there will be 135 pick-up slots per day. There has been demand for library books with patrons placing 1,932 book holds in the past 30 days.

The virtual library programs have been well attended. July 1 through July 25, the library offered 27 virtual programs which had 322 attendees. There are 351 families participating in the summer reading program. The Belmont Center Business Association supports this program by donating prizes. Library patrons are making significant use of the online resources such as Hoopla, Overdrive, and Acorn TV. The Library Director noted that, while the electronic materials are popular, they are more expensive than physical materials. The circulation figures to date have reached 512,100, despite the library being closed.

Next Steps:

The Library Director will bring back on site the staff (who have been rotating days in and out of the library) on August 3. They will work Monday to Friday 9-5. The exceptions are staff over age 65 or with documented medical conditions or family medical leave. One of the 25 furloughed part time staff will return on August 3.

The Library Director has started work on the long-range plan. The survey component will be in the field starting on August 3.

Efforts are underway to plan the One Book One Belmont program.

The Library Director initiated an effort to improve communication flow among the staff. He developed a Project Proposal form to support the procedure to submit and track suggestions.

Chair Keohane mentioned that the Select Board may put a vote on an override on the November ballot. The results of this vote could have major implications for the library budget.

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TOWN CLERK
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DATE: December 1, 2021
TIME: 10:43 AM

Chair Keohane adjourned the public meeting at 5:31 to move into Executive Session. The public session was resumed at 5:58. The Trustees voted unanimously to approve the Library Director's performance review and new contract. Chair Keohane made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:03 p.m. seconded by Trustee Mann.

Next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 20, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Stearns, Secretary