

Milton Public Library
Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 7. 2022 6.p.m.

Community Meeting Room, Milton Public Library

The Milton Library and Trustees met in person and provided the public with meeting information.

Present: Lisa Barron – President/Chair, Beth Bouchard – Treasurer, Ela Dupont – Secretary, Tracy Hughes – Vice President, Mike Thompson, member at large, Matthew Davis – Director. Public: Lorraine Kelm, Judy Schmidt, Willow Longo, Vicky Herman, MaryBeth Peterson, Kathy Dulac.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

Agenda Adjustments: No agenda adjustments were made.

Public Forum: Members of the public had comments regarding the Milton Public Library. There was concern that there has not been a children's librarian hired, and concern that a 25-hour position doesn't give enough time for programs or collection development. There was concern that the library has run for 16 months without another full-time employee and current staff is stretched thin. There was concern expressed that a full-time position may be eliminated in the library. There was concern that the library is not currently offering story time, special events, literacy, the ability to browse, STEM, socializing, paint and sips, a bake sale during town meeting day, MFCC play groups, a train table, puzzles, puppets, chairs for a child to sit in, a librarian that knows about book suggestions, a smaller juvenile non-fiction section and that the catalog is hard to browse. There was concern expressed that the library doesn't value children or learning and the lack of things from a child's perspective. A community member suggested not approving budgets unless children's programming is included. A community member also expressed that it was hard to contact board members and wanted board members' email addresses.

Members of the public commented that if they have a concern about the library they go to the Director and talk with him, which they could not do with the previous director. Additional comments included that if additional services are to be provided, that will not happen overnight. Many services had to be discontinued due to COVID-19 restrictions and those services have not been able to safely resume yet. Services that are in the process of being potentially resumed include the therapy dog, summer reading programs, and the community room use for programming. Community members commented that concerns need to look at the library as a whole and not just one section of the library and bringing it back to programming will not happen as quickly as people will like.

Approval of February 7, 2022 Minutes: Tracy Hughes motioned to accept library minutes from February 7, 2022 as written. Beth Bouchard seconded. None opposed. Motion carried.

Reorganize Trustees: Lisa Barron motioned to organize the board of trustees as follows: Lisa Barron President, Tracy Hughes Vice President, Beth Bouchard Treasurer, Ela Dupont Secretary, Mike Thompson Member at Large. Ela Dupont seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion carried.

Friend's Report: The Friends of the Milton Public Library will have their next Friends meeting on March 30, 2022, where they hope to elect officer positions. The chili take out even was successful despite there being no other winter festival programming at Bombardier Park during that time frame.

Staff Feedback: Staff member feedback was solicited by Tracy Hughes. Staff reported that they feel like the library is moving in the right direction. There is some anxiety noted regarding the children's librarian position remaining unfilled.

Director's Report: Matthew Davis presented the director's report as written. December statistics, finances, expenditures review, and vendor log reviewed with the board. The library had required masking to enter and had been practicing physical/social distancing and plans to continue to engage in COVID-19 risk mitigation strategies including continuing with curbside pickup 3 days a week and being open to public 3 days a week. With 7-day percent positivity remaining below 5% over the last two weeks, in person programming will resume. The safety of staff and patrons of the library is the primary focus of all COVID-19 risk mitigation strategies at the library. The thinning of the library collection continues and is moving along positively. Pratt and Smith electricians will be present at the library April 4 and 5, 2022 and the library will be closed on those dates to allow electrical work to be completed. Library staff continue to work to spend line items of the budget. Part time hours of library staff need to be increased to allow for the baseline needs of the library to be addressed. The current staff are not able to complete the work they need to do in their hours so increase in those hours to complete work and appropriately staff the library is needed. 737 new titles were ordered in children, YA, adult. 10 titles were ordered for the summer story walk. A graphic novel collection is being crafted. An outreach conversation occurred with Jessica Utley to set up infant/toddler story group. Library staff are working together to put together a structure where interested community partners can put together/lead programming they are interested in offering at the library. MCYC has been working with library staff to set up a literacy-based peer mentor group. Library staff have reached out to the boy scouts to see if they could assist with setting up the story walk. Summer programming is beginning to be set up, and may include a pet parade, Pelkey's archery events, an owl program, a bat program, and a butterfly program. Once programming is solidified, an event flier will be published. The network switch and public switch were replaced. The sonic wall needs to be replaced and will be planned for in next fiscal year budget. The youth services librarian position is posted in 6 places.

Treasurer's Report: Beth Bouchard reported on accounts at TD Bank.

New Business for Next Agenda: Review any masking or COVID-19 guidelines that may have changed.

Executive Session to discuss personnel: Lisa Baron motioned to enter executive session at 6:44 p.m. and Ela Dupont seconded. Executive session was exited at 7:49 p.m. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Adjournment: Mike Thompson motioned to adjourn. Tracy Hughes seconded. All in favor. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

The next Trustee Meeting will be held in the Community Meeting Room of the Milton Public Library on Monday April 11, 2022 at 6 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Secretary Ela Dupont.