

**Attleboro Public Library Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes - October 14, 2020**

Due to COVID-19 there are state and local restrictions on gatherings, resulting in this meeting being a virtual Board meeting on the Zoom Conferencing platform. The meeting was called to order by Board President Charlie Oliver at 6:00 p.m.

ATTENDEES

Trustees: Linda Binns, Beth Gould, Judy Lusk, Diane Mangiaratti, Charlie Oliver, Tobey Reed, Eileen Struminski, Tricia Svendsen

Library Director: Chris Johnson

Rockland Trust Representatives: Paula Murphy and Mary Friel

Charlie read aloud the notice stating that this virtual meeting would be open to the public through the Zoom Conferencing Platform, noting that votes would be taken by roll call.

ROCKLAND TRUST PRESENTATION

Paula Murphy and Mary Friel updated the Board on the financial status of Attleboro Public Library accounts and projected outlook, referencing the 32 page booklet on Attleboro Public Library investments. They presented charts showing how COVID-19 statistics are driving the economy, stating that the U.S. economy activity results in a negative GDP growth and that we are technically in a recession now. There is hope that by 2022 things will be better.

They reported the economy and stock market are growing and there is a question as to what the election will mean to the economy. There might be short-term volatility and Rockland Trust is planning for this volatility. When Charlie asked, "How do you plan for volatility?" Paula said they would want to know the Board's liquidity needs so cash could be in a money market account. Chris asked about whether they expect a change depending on election results. They said no, and our current allocation satisfies our needs.

Rockland Trust will be invited to present again in January or February.

MINUTES

Minutes of the September 9, 2020 meeting were approved in a roll call vote with the following correction under **New Business:**

\$1,750 has been expended for repairs and restoration of the Grandfather Clock, and the expenses charged to Account F, Reference Gifts. This was contrary to the intended use of Reference Gifts. Because we had a surplus at 2020 Fiscal Year end, the Board agreed to charge the expense to Account E3, Contingencies and Reserves.

Further, the Board agreed to make available \$2,500 as seed money to begin the Sun Chronicle digitization project, proposed by Carrie Sylvia. In the interest of utilizing funds which have accumulated in the Chiarenza Gift account, the Board has agreed to charge that account for the seed money, which is an appropriate use.

TREASURER'S REPORT

In Mahesh's absence Charlie gave the Treasurer's Report. Warrant #4 in the amount of \$2,867.12, and gifts in the amount of \$25 were approved by a roll call vote. \$2,867.12 will be transferred to the checking account.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chris submitted a written report and mentioned that

- The envelope project is moving forward and contractors are on site.
- By going through the federal E-Rate program, the library could qualify for a 60% discount on the costs for cabling and equipment.
- Chris has submitted a grant to the MA Office on Disabilities for needed accessibility upgrades.
- Big Read events have been well attended. There is no Big Read finale dinner scheduled due to Attleboro High School's Culinary Arts Dept. being unable to commit to providing and hosting the event at this time.

TECH COMMITTEE

The Tech Committee met with Paul Kissman from MBLC via Zoom on Sep. 21. Chris distributed to Board members a spreadsheet showing the breakdown of expenses for upgrading the Library's internet infrastructure. Going through the federal E-Rate program could result in as much as a \$17,192 savings.

NEW BUSINESS

Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)

Information was provided to Board members on "Grants, the Internet and the First Amendment." CIPA applies when a library accepts funding from E-Rate or L.S.T.A. grants. The government E-Rate grant program for internet connectivity and accessibility would provide a deep discount for the Library. To be eligible for the government E-Rate program, libraries must agree to filtering measures on library computers. There was a brief discussion about the use of filters as a form of censorship and a question about what other MA libraries are doing regarding this issue. The statistics provided on filtering by other libraries are from 2014. When asked what software we would use as a filter should we participate, Chris said she will check with Boston Public Library and other large libraries to see what they are using. The application for this program is due in June.

Correction approved at November 11 meeting: The window for submitting the E-Rate grant application is January through March. A filtering program for CIPA must be in place by the end of June to be ready for a July 1 start.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Next meeting: November 11, 2020

Respectfully submitted,
Tricia Svendsen