

**Rye Public Library
Board of Trustees – Minutes
Public Session
March 22, 2022**

Present: Trustees Victor Azzi, Jeffrey Ross, Michael Moody and JoAnn Hodgdon and Director Andrew Richmond, Christine LeBlond present over Zoom

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Jeff Ross, at 4:03 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was waived.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

At 4:04 Mr. Moody moved to approve the January 12th minutes. Mr. Azzi seconded. The Board was polled and all were in favor.

At 4:05 Ms. Hodgdon moved to approve the amended minutes of the February 9th meeting. Mr. Moody seconded. The Board was polled and all were in favor.

Director's Report:

Director Richmond reported that the annual audit was completed and the corresponding questionnaire has been completed and needs to be signed. The audit requests a review of the Investment Policy. The Board reviewed the policy and agreed to reinstate the policy for 2022.

Director Richmond noted that the trust that was given to the Trustees of the Trust Fund, now valued at approximately \$68,000, could be moved as the ten-year term for the investment is approaching expiration. Mr. Ross noted that use of these funds is unrestricted.

Director Richmond reported that the library fine elimination policy that the Board approved will be announced for national Library Week (April 3-9).

Director Richmond also reported that the update to the library website includes a new catalog view and a reservation element for events. Some rearchitecting of the website is still in the works. Director Richmond presented the Board with a diversity statement with an eye toward posting it to the website. The Board will review and discuss it at the April meeting.

Director Richmond noted that Seacoast Tree Care had sent a proposal for feeding the three trees on the Library Common. Mr. Ross stated that the two Norway maples in the center of the lot are not part of any future plan for the space and asked Director Richmond to ask Seacoast Tree Care for a proposal for caring only for the maple on the corner of the lot near the library building.

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Ross shared an email that both he and Director Richmond had received from a patron requesting that the mask requirement for entering the youth department be dropped. Director Richmond reported that the COVID transmission rate for Rockingham County has been downgraded from significant to moderate and that the staff is comfortable moving to a mask optional policy for the youth department, as well as for themselves.

The youth department staff suggests offering one day a week when masks would be worn to offer vulnerable patrons, as well as parent of children too young to be vaccinated, a safe option to visit the library. Director Richmond noted that children under two years of age are not required to wear a mask. The Board agreed with this solution.

The Board reviewed the statement to be posted in the entrance of the library and agreed to revise it to mask-optional.

Library Common Planning:

Mr. Azzi met with the civil engineer and the architect to discuss a revision to the concept based on the resolution of paper street off Olde Parish Road. Mr. Azzi invited both gentlemen to attend The Board's next meeting to further discuss the planning that is underway.

Mr. Ross raised the topic of fundraising for the Library Common. He suggested that the Board seek funds for the moving of the Town Museum and fundraise for the completion of the project – landscaping, fixtures, etc.

Mr. Moody will look into what's required for creating a foundation / 501(c)(3) and Ms. Hodgdon will review the list of members on the Advisory Committee for any who might be interested in working on a fundraising campaign committee.

The Board set the next meeting for April 19th at 4:00 PM.

Adjournment

At 5:54 PM Mr. Moody moved that the Board adjourn. Mr. Ross seconded. The Board was polled and all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine LeBlond
Secretary
March 27, 2022