

BEDFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
April 8, 2022

A regular meeting of the Bedford Public Library Board of Trustees was held on April 8, 2022 in the McAllaster Room. In attendance were Pam Van Arsdale (Chair), Catherine Rombeau (Alternate Trustee acting as a Full Trustee), Miriam Johnson (Director), and Caitlin Loving (Assistant Director). Jerry Hanauer (Treasurer) was present via Zoom. Jillian Harris (Assistant Planning Director), Brian Patinskas (McFarland Johnson), and Jeff Foote (Director of Department of Public Works) were present from 9:00 am-10:47am. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am.

MOTION by Pam to allow Jerry to participate in the meeting via Zoom. Seconded by Catherine.

Roll call vote: Pam-Aye, Jerry-Aye, Catherine-Aye.

Alternate Trustee called up to Full Trustee for this meeting: Pam asked Catherine to serve as a Full Trustee for this meeting, as Walter Gallo was unable to attend.

Election of Officers –

Treasurer: Pam made a motion to nominate Jerry to be Treasurer of the Library Trustees; Catherine seconded.

Role call vote: Jerry-Aye, Catherine-Aye, Pam-Aye

Chair: Catherine made a motion to nominate Pam as Chair of the Library Trustees; Jerry seconded.

Role call vote: Catherine-Aye, Jerry-Aye, Pam-Aye

Parking Lot Update with Jeff Foote and Brian Patinskas – Pam read a brief statement about the mission of the library and the purpose of expanding the parking lot. Jeff gave a brief overview of the proposed loading zone on the upper parking level (public comments and questions listed below); Jeff gave a brief overview of the lower parking lot (public comments and questions listed below); Miriam presented the history of the parking lot plan, dating back to 2001.

Public Comments –

Is there a ratio of the number of handicapped parking spots to non-handicapped parking spots? Yes—this current plan has 7 handicapped spaces even though only 6 would be required.

What is the basis for needing additional parking spaces? At the outset of looking into the new parking lot plan, Jeff's original quick calculation was that 85 additional spaces would be needed; Jillian from the Planning Department calculated that our current parking lot is 102 spaces short when considering all of the current uses for the parking lot. If we were a commercial entity going before the Planning Board, we would be required to add these additional 102 parking spaces. This proposal would add 60 additional parking spaces. Jillian explained the standards and calculations for determining the appropriate number of parking spaces for the library.

Concerns were raised about the removal of green space, an increase in traffic, a lack of measurements on the design itself, a change of the view from neighboring homes, the budget for this project and using ARPA funding, and wanting more data to show that this expansion is necessary.

Public comments were concluded at 10:37.

There was a brief discussion of next steps in terms of the parking lot plan. The Trustees asked if Brian could revise the design with the proposed changes from the sketch from Jillian and Becky. Jeff and Brian asked a few clarifying questions, and will provide an updated design and cost estimates at the next Trustees meeting on April 22, 2022.

Secretary's Report – Minutes from the March 11, 2022 Regular meeting of Library Board of Trustees were accepted and approved.

Pam made a motion to accept the minutes, Catherine seconded.

Role call vote: Jerry-Aye, Catherine-Aye, Pam-Aye

Treasurer's Report – The Treasurer's report was reviewed and accepted.

Acceptance of Gifts – None.

Director's Report – See attached.

Old Business:

Reopening Plan – No changes to the reopening plan.

New Business:

Alternate Trustee – Lee Joyce is put forth as a potential candidate for Alternate Trustee.

Jerry made a motion to nominate Lee Joyce as an Alternate Trustee; Catherine seconded.

Role call vote: Jerry-Aye, Catherine-Aye, Pam-Aye

Pam made a motion to nominate Catherine Rombeau for another one-year appointment as Alternate Trustee; Jerry seconded.

Role call vote: Jerry-Aye, Catherine-Aye, Pam-Aye

Miriam will submit Catherine and Lee's names to Town Manager Rick Sawyer and the Town Council for approval.

Lions Club Benches – The Lions Club collects plastic for recycling and gets free Trex benches in return for this program. They have offered two to the Library this year. The Trustees are appreciative of this offer. Miriam will coordinate getting the benches from the Lions Club.

NHLTA Conference Registration – Jerry will write checks for the registration fees.

The next meeting will be held on Friday, April 22, 2022 at 10:00 in the McAllaster Room. The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam Johnson
Library Director

Caitlin Loving
Assistant Director