

Dover Town Library Board of Trustees Meeting
01/12/2021 9:00 AM
Meeting Place/Location: Remote/Zoom

Attendees (Remote)

- Cheryl Abdullah, Director, Dover Town Library
- Trustees Present: Adrian Hill (Co-Chair), Judith Schulz (Co-Chair), Peter Hoffmann (Secretary), Tracy Tobin, Erin Rodat-Savla, and Ameer Tejani;
- Guest Speaker(s): Rob Andrews, Friends of the Dover Town Library

Documents/Exhibits

- Draft Minutes from 12.08.2020 Meeting
- FY2022 Operating Budget Update (12.3.2020)
- Director's Report (December)

Community Comments

Justine urged the library to open as soon as possible.

Director's Report

The Board discussed the Director's December Report. Cheryl explained that two employees tested positive and, after consultation with Chris and the Department of Health, the town decided close the library. It was initially closed for 7 days, but then extended to allow the town time to assess the safety of the library workstations. Cheryl will be meeting with Dave Sullivan at the library on Thursday for an assessment. Some of the staff have been unable to come into due to COVID-19 related issues, but online services are continuing with the employees working from home. Cheryl is waiting to hear the next steps from Chris Dwelley.

State Aid

The Board discussed the outlook for state aid. Erin Rodat-Savla opined that the state recognizes the labor intensity of the new normal and is sending the message to the libraries that closures will not affect state aid. Cheryl seconded that sentiment.

Friends of the Dover Library Update

Rob Andrews noted that fundraising is going well, with an increase in the size of the average donation. The Friends are considering various fundraising programming for the summer, none of which will involve additional work for the library staff.

Budget Outreach

The Board discussed conducting some community outreach to educate the town about what is happening at the library and the need for additional staff, as reflected in the original FY21 and the recent FY22 budget request. Trustees want to ensure that town officials are aware of key details of the staffing request - including the benchmarking done to support it - as well as the library's COVID response. Although COVID-19 has changed the shape of library services, it has not decreased the staffing needs. The library has operated at the same FTEs for a decade, while key workload measures have increased significantly. The Board is expected to present the budget to the Warrant Committee on January 20.

Acceptance of Minutes

Review of the minutes from the December 2020 meeting was postponed until the February meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:59am.