

## BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

April 26, 2022, 7 PM

In-Person Meeting

- 0. 7PM Call to order of Board of Library Trustees Meeting.** Present: Nancy Gilbert acting as Chair, Jeff Billingham, Joan Barry, April Jones Prince, Poornima Tekumalla, AnneMarie Bird, and Library Director Priya Rathnam. Absent with notice: Chair Deb Lebeaux, Clare O'Connor and Lisa Powers.
- 1. Review and act to approve minutes of March 22nd, 2022 meeting.** Minutes were reviewed and approved with no changes. A motion to approve was made by Joan Barry, seconded by April Jones Prince, and was unanimously approved.
- 2. Review and act to approve Director's report of activities of March 2022.** Library Director Priya Rathnam discussed various activities and answered questions from board. Priya highlighted an activity she was invited to participate in which was a capstone project for graduate fellowship studies in Community Engagement in a discussion: "Can Public Libraries Help Bridge Our Divides? Public Libraries as Third Spaces for Civic Dialogue and Collaborative Empowerment". A motion to approve the Director's report was made by Jeff Billingham, seconded by Poornima Tekumalla, and was unanimously approved.
- 3. Programs & Services: Director's report of programs and services offered in March.** Library Director Priya Rathnam reported that the seed lending started on March 22nd with a line out the door and in two days the seeds were gone. Note to possibly ask Friends of the Library for more funds next year to purchase more seed as this has become more popular. The meeting room is being used by the community for various meetings. New Storywalk in town center that starts at the Shrewsbury Country Shoppe and ends at the Library. 157 new library members in March.
- 4. Financial and Legislative: Review and act upon FY2022 YTD report.** Library Director Priya Rathnam reports on track for spending. Two months left in fiscal year and 85.5% material budget has been spent. Library Director Priya Rathnam reports that the professional associate staff at library have received a 2% increase in salary effective immediately. This was approved by town manager. This came about after several positions continued to be open at the library. Library Director Priya Rathnam researched other libraries and found that Shrewsbury library's starting salary for similar positions were not competitive with other towns. The hourly wage for pages has also increased to \$15.00/hour effective immediately.

5. **Facility, Equipment and Grounds.** Library Director Priya Rathnam reports that the floors where the automated handling center for books was waxed and polished. Nancy Gilbert also asked again about a light for the front of the library facing Main Street as it is hard to see the library sign at night.
6. **Gifts and Grants.** Library Director Priya Rathnam reports nothing new to report.
7. **Personnel.** Library Director Priya Rathnam introduced the new Library Technologist that has been hired –Dana Volke. Dana was present at the beginning of the meeting to meet the board of trustees and say a few words about his background. Dana was welcomed by the Board members. Director Priya Rathnam also handed out her approved Professional Goals and Objectives for 2022.
8. **Shrewsbury Public Library Foundation.** Nancy Gilbert reported that the Foundation board is looking for two speakers for their distinguished speaking series for September and November and they will be announced soon. The Foundation board has two new members, Deb DelDotto and Jenny Wang.
9. **Friends of the Library.** Summer Reading Program will have their kick-off party on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.
10. **Policies.** Edits in waiver forms of LOT policy were made. A motion to approve the edits was made by Joan Barry, seconded by April Jones Prince, and was unanimously approved.
12. **Miscellaneous.** Local authors' will be selling their books during author showcase on June 23<sup>rd</sup> –summer reading kick off. A motion to approve the selling of the books was made by Jeff Billingham, seconded by AnneMarie Bird, and was unanimously approved. A request for state aid funding for summer reading prizes-\$500 each for children, teens, and adults. A motion to approve the funds was made by AnneMarie Bird, seconded by Joan Barry, and was unanimously approved. Library Director Priya Rathnam reported an update on the middle school students visiting the library on Friday afternoons. Measures in place including the hiring of the two teen aids and adult volunteers have helped the situation. The Board of Trustees also wishes to thank the school administration for help in communicating and distributing the letter written by the Board of Trustees to the middle school families on the expectations of the students in the library as well outside the library building.
11. **Next Trustees meeting: May 24, 2022.** Reorganization of the Board after May elections.  
Board meeting dates in 2022: June 28, September 27, October 25, November 22, December

TBD. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Joan Barry, seconded by Poornima Tekumalla, and was unanimously approved.

Submitted by Trustee AnneMarie Bird