

**Mount Laurel Library  
Board of Trustees  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
April 21, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:03 P.M.

**FIRE SAFETY INFORMATION:** Provided by Ms. Sawyer

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETING LAW STATEMENT:**

Ms. Sawyer stated that this meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice of the meeting was provided by way of the Burlington County Times, the Courier Post, and the Mount Laurel Sun, and it was posted in the library and on its website.

**ROLL CALL:**

Gina Acerbo - present  
Beth Demaio - present  
Noreen Duffey - present  
Susan Fortuna – present  
Nick Moustakas – present  
Fredda Sacharow – present  
McKenna Samson - *absent*  
Stephanie Sawyer – present  
Walter Stridick - present

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Ed Campbell, Esq.  
Becky Boydston  
Gayle McCormick

**APPROVAL of MINUTES:**

Approval of March 17, 2021 minutes of meeting:  
Motion: Mr. Moustakas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ms. Acerbo  
All in Favor

**APPROVAL of BILL LIST and BILL LIST ADDENDUM:**

Motion: Mr. Stridick, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ms. Duffey  
Roll Call: 8 yes votes

## **REPORT FROM LIBRARY STAFF:**

### **Mount Laurel Sun**

Ms. Boydston said she was contacted by a reporter from the Mount Laurel Sun about the library's plans for reopening. She stated that the majority of staff members have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine and, overall, feel better about gradually opening for more services and longer hours. For the time being, curbside pickup will continue to be offered.

### **Audit**

The annual audit was conducted in March by accounting associates of Bowman & Company. Although reports are not yet available, preliminary word is that everything looked good.

### **Staff Changes**

Wes Blackburn, Assistant Circulation Supervisor, has resigned to take a Librarian position in Long Branch, NJ. Ms. Duffey acknowledged Wes as an outstanding library staff member and Ms. Sawyer said she particularly enjoyed his virtual trivia programs. We wish him well in his new position.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Nothing to discuss.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Reopening Plan**

Ms. Boydston has been following Governor Murphy and the CDC for the latest recommendations about reopening fully and safely. On April 5<sup>th</sup> the CDC reported that transmission of COVID-19 from surfaces is no longer believed to be a concern. She has therefore discontinued the 72-hour quarantining of materials returned to the library. Books and other items will be checked in and available promptly after they are returned. Staff members are still encouraged to either wear gloves or to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer frequently.

Overdue fines were suspended last summer for a few reasons, including the fact that items were in quarantine for a few days after return. Since the quarantine period has been discontinued, fines may resume again soon although Ms. Boydston is still not quite ready to reinstitute them. She proposes to begin charging overdue fines again in June or July. After a brief discussion Trustees agreed that July 1<sup>st</sup> is a reasonable date to resume charging fines. This decision is separate from the topic introduced last month of possibly going fine-free indefinitely, as is the trend at libraries across the country. That discussion is tabled for a future meeting.

The library plans to gradually increase the library's operating hours toward pre-pandemic hours. Beginning May 3rd, the library will open at 9:30 AM instead of 10:00 AM and stay open until 7:00 PM Monday through Friday instead of 6:00 PM.

All of these reopening measures may be walked back if COVID-19 infection rates surge again.

**RESOLUTION 2021-018: Authorization to Sell Surplus on Discover Books**

This is a continuation of periodic effort to remove outdated and otherwise unusable materials (books, DVDs) from the library's collection since the last approval.

Motion to approve: Mr. Stridick

2<sup>nd</sup>: Ms. Fortuna

Roll Call: 8 yes votes

**Financial Disclosure Forms**

Ms. Boydston reminded all Trustees that they are required to complete the previously distributed financial disclosure form. The State of New Jersey has extended the filing deadline to May 31, 2021.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No public in attendance.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn at 6:25 PM: Mr. Moustakas

2<sup>nd</sup>: Ms. Sacharow

All in favor