



# Raritan Public Library

---

54 East Somerset Street  
Raritan, New Jersey 08869  
Phone: (908) 725-0413  
Fax: (908) 725-1832

March 18th, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Raritan Public Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:01pm by Don Esposito, Board President. This meeting was held virtually via Zoom due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Don Esposito read a statement that the meeting was duly publicized and it was called pursuant to provisions from the Open Public Meeting Law.

MEMBERS PRESENT: D. Esposito, J. Fidacaro, L. Hnasko, A. Goetsch, J. Foohey, M. P. Gausz, U. Agrawal, L. Sandler, BRRSD rep, and M. Paese, Director.  
Absent: Mayor Zack Bray.

D. Esposito led the flag salute.

MINUTES: J. Fidacaro made a motion to approve the regular minutes from the February 18th, 2021 Board Meeting, A. Goetsch seconded the motion. All trustees approved except U. Agrawal, L. Sandler and M.P. Gausz, who abstained as they were absent from the previous month's meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: J. Foohey made a motion to approve both the February and the March bills, A. Goetsch seconded and the roll call was unanimous.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- John Paternoster sent the Library a not-to-exceed price to repair the damaged wall along Wykoff Street. The quote was forwarded to Eric Colvin as the Borough agreed to pay for the damages.
- The High School Boy Scout expects the "free" library boxes to be completed near the end of April. A writer for the BReeze wants to do an interview regarding the boxes. A decision needs to be made as to where to install the six boxes around town. A. Goetsch and J. Foohey agreed to think of possible locations.
- There has been a hold-up in the production of the Library's new carpet. Langhorne reported that the loom, our carpet is being woven on, broke down twice and had to be repaired. The loom is now running and we should expect the carpet to be completed around the middle of April and installed near the end of the month.
- The Library will be thoroughly cleaned by Trinity Clean, LLC once the carpet is installed.
- This weekend will be our annual Maker's Day event. In addition to our programs, the State will be putting up a free two-day livestream event for the public.
- April adult programming will include a wreath trellis craft, two yoga sessions and a program on how to avoid scammers by the NJ Division of Consumer Affairs. All events will be held virtually as well as the annual Poetry Reading Night.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: D. Esposito stated that HMR Architects and a masonry expert took samples of the mortar. They also discovered that one of the headers on a doorway in the basement is cut/incomplete and may not be supporting weight. It is critical that this be addressed before the foundation is repaired. A complete report will be sent to the Board before the next meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

NEW BUSINESS: The recent controversy surrounding some of the Dr. Seuss books was addressed. The Library currently does not have a policy in place if someone complains about a material. D. Esposito spoke about forming a committee to create such a policy for the Library. L. Hnasko, A. Goetsch and L. Sandler agreed to serve on the committee and work with the Director. A decision was made to keep the Dr. Seuss books in circulation and leave it up to the parent/guardian to decide if they are appropriate for them to read.

OLD BUSINESS: The town-wide yard sale was discussed. J. Foohey reported that he spoke to the Borough Council about using the town's grounds for the yard sale. A release form would need to be created. It was recommended to keep the sale at houses only. D. Esposito suggested e-mailing past participants to see if they are willing to join in this year. The proposed date is June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

RESOLUTION: 2021-03-001: Annual Contract for Library Landscaper: M. P. Gausz made a motion to retain the services of FTS as the Library's landscaper commencing on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 and concluding on or about November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 for a total of \$2,800.00. J. Foohey seconded the motion and the roll call was unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: At 7:36pm, a motion was made by M. P Gausz to adjourn the meeting, seconded by J. Foohey. The roll call was unanimous.

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held virtually via Zoom on April 15th, 2021 at 7:00 pm.