



Raritan Public Library

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October 15th, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the Raritan Public Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:00 pm 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, M.P. Gausz, U. Agrawal, J. Foohey, L. Hnasko, A.M. Mead, Mayor Zach Bray and M. Paese, Director. Absent: A. Goetsch.

D. Esposito led the flag salute.

MINUTES: A.M. Mead made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 17th, 2020 Board Meeting, J. Fidacaro seconded the motion. The roll call was unanimous.

TREASURER'S REPORT: A. M. Mead made a motion to approve the October bills, J. Foohey seconded and the roll call was unanimous.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Consolidated Environmental completed the duct cleaning/HVAC work on October 12th. All ducts and registers were disinfected. According to the contractor, most of the insulation in the ductwork is in good condition. Possibly one of the four systems may need encapsulation in the future.
- The Director sent Eric Colvin the paid invoice for the duct cleaning work in hopes of getting reimbursed through FEMA.
- Ken's Tree Service removed the dead trees and branches around the Library's yard.
- New screens were ordered for the windows in the stack room.
- The benches in the back yard were painted as well as the floor of the gazebo.
- Once all the leaves fall, the Library's gutters will be cleaned/blown out.
- The Library had as many visitors as last year for Somerset County Weekend Journey. The outdoor concert program was repeated four times to allow for social distancing. The Director thanked Jane Fidacaro for volunteering for the event.
- A student from Rutgers is making a documentary for his filmmaking class and is requesting permission to film at the Library. He is interested in also doing a paranormal investigation. The Board previously received a copy of his letter. The Trustees agreed to discuss this further in "New Business".
- J. Fidacaro and the Director met with candidates for the Children's Librarian position. Jane will continue to discuss this in "Committee Reports".
- Interlibrary loan service will resume Statewide on October 19th. The service has been closed since March.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: J. Fidacaro mentioned that one applicant stood out for the position of Children's Librarian. Upon the Personnel Committee's recommendation, J. Fidacaro made a motion to hire the one candidate, A. M. Mead seconded the motion and the roll call was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS: Although the Board agreed to meet the Rutgers students' request, they expressed concern over liability issues regarding their filming after normal business hours on the Library's premises. The Trustees recommended that the Director first contact the Library's attorney for a liability waiver.

The Board discussed opening the Community Room for the Book Club and other small organizations. J. Foohey made a motion to allow small gatherings of no more than 10 people, L. Hnasko seconded the motion and the roll call was unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS: J. Foohey reported that discarding books on the front porch is working well. Organizations such as LUPUS also take books.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: At 7:37pm, a motion was made by U. Agrawal to adjourn the meeting, seconded by J.Fidacaro. The roll call was unanimous.

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held virtually (via Zoom) on November 19th, 2020 at 7:00 pm.