

**NORTHBOROUGH FREE LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MEETING MINUTES JUNE 9, 2020**

**PRESENT:** Mitch Cohen, Richard Tucker, Hamilton Soriano, Jocelyn McElhiney, Joan Scott, Charles Recchia, Neeta Karanjkar, Michelle Rehill (Chair), Jim Hogan.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Chris Lindquist, Deb Hersh

**DISCLAIMER:**

***DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, THIS WAS THE FIRST BOARD MEETING SINCE MARCH 10, 2020. DUE TO STATE AND LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH RULES AND ORDERS PROHIBITING PUBLIC GATHERINGS, THIS MEETING WAS HELD REMOTELY VIA THE ZOOM SOFTWARE.***

***THE SECRETARY WAS ABLE TO PARTICIPATE ORALLY, BUT NOT VISUALLY. THE MINUTES MIGHT REFLECT THAT THE SECRETARY WAS NOT ALWAYS ABLE TO FULLY HEAR EXACTLY WHAT WAS SAID BY PARTICIPANTS.***

**CALL TO ORDER AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:** Chair Rehill called the meeting to order at 7:13 PM. The Minutes of the meeting of March 10, 2020 were approved as submitted (with two abstentions).

**APPROPRIATIONS REPORT:** The budget is on target. With one month remaining in the fiscal year, the library had expended 87% of budgeted salary, and 74% of other categories for a total expenditure of 83%.

**LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

With the Commonwealth still in Phase I of re-opening all staff continue to work remotely with occasional physical visits to the building. Staff are providing on-line programs and services and responding to patron requests.

Due to the continuing fiscal crisis in the State and the Town, the Library's FY21 budget will be decreased by 0.49% (\$4,244) from the approved FY20 budget. As part of the revised (still to be approved) FY21 Town budget, the Library budget for books and materials will be cut \$30,000 (23%). The expense accounts will be cut \$3,444. If approved by Town Meeting, the newly restored Thursday evening hours will be eliminated and the two staff covering those hours will be laid off effective July 1, 2020.

Chris proposed that the Library seek permission from the Town to self-fund the Thursday evening hours and retain the two effected staff. A discussion of this proposal followed resulting in the following motion being made by Mitch Cohen (seconded by Joan Scott);

"I move that the Library Board of Trustees request approval from the Town Administrator to fully fund Thursday evening hours for Fiscal Year 2021 from donated funds, including the retention of two part-time employees, at a cost not to exceed \$8812 above the amounts previously approved for this purpose."

A **ROLL CALL VOTE** was taken and the motion carried with 8 yeas and 1 nay.

Chris then outlined the Library's plans for staged re-opening as allowed by the State and the Town.

Chris then asked for Board approval of the Library's proposed *Statement on Racial Injustice* and for it to be read into the minutes of this June meeting and publicly displayed by the Library. The Statement reads as follows:

***The Northborough Free Library stands with people of color in our community and around the world, the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA), and the Massachusetts Library System in condemning racism toward Black people and all people of Color. The Library also supports the right of citizens to peacefully protest police brutality and institutionalized racism***

***We pledge to continue our commitment to providing a diverse collection of resources, safe and inclusive spaces, and timely educational opportunities that advance democracy, intellectual freedom, and racial equality."***

This discussion the followed the presentation of this statement reflected the Board's very strong and enthusiastic support. Indeed, Trustees thanked Chris and the staff for crafting this statement. It was unanimously and proudly approved by the Board.

Chair Rehill next moved the creation of the 2020 Nomination Committee and the positions they will need to fill;

THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE JUNE 2020.

RICHARD TUCKER  
JOCELYN McELHINEY  
JOAN SCOTT

To nominate individuals for the following positions:

CHAIR  
VICE CHAIR  
TREASURER  
SECRETARY

This motion was unanimously approved by **ROLL CALL VOTE**.

Chris then publicly thanked the staff for all their very difficult work during these trying times. They worked via ZOOM, the phone and email. The volume of patron requests has grown during this period and staff have risen to the occasion to meet the many and various needs.

Sadly, this was also Chris Lindquist's final Board meeting. This week he submitted his resignation to become the library Director in Farmington, CT. The Board wishes Chris the very best, and thanks him for his 5 years of dedicated service to the citizens of Northborough and the Northborough Free Library.

The next Board of trustees meeting will be on July 14, 2020 @ 7 PM.

There being no other business before the Board, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Hogan  
Secretary