

**NORTHBOROUGH FREE LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 10, 2020**

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Deb Hersh (Zoom host), Scott Rogers (Selectman)

**DUE TO THE ONGOING COVID-19 VIRUS PANDEMIC, THIS MEETING WAS CONDUCTED REMOTELY VIA ZOOM.**

**CALL TO MEETING & OPENING REMARKS:** The Chair called the meeting to order @7:06 PM. She conducted a **ROLL CALL** attendance of all present. She read Gov. Baker's standard advisory regarding public meetings during the pandemic. She welcomed our new liaison from the Board of Selectmen, Scott Rogers. Chair then read the following public announcement about the Board's successful search for a new Library Director;

It is with great pleasure that the Northborough Free Library Board of Trustees announces Jennifer Bruneau as the new Library Director. She will join the staff on December 7, 2020. Jennifer has over 16 years of experience in supervisory roles, and has been the Director of the Boylston Public Library for the past nine years. Jennifer also brings a wealth of professional library leadership and advocacy experience at the local, state, and national level. We are very excited about having Jennifer on board, and we hope you will join us in welcoming her to the Northborough Free Library.

Board members expressed their great pleasure in hearing this wonderful news.

Chair then called for **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** of the meetings of September 8, October 8, 13 and 19. A motion was made (by Mitch Cohen and seconded by Jocelyn McElhiney) to consider all four sets of minutes with one vote. A **ROLL CALL** vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. One correction was noted in the October 19 minutes and a motion to approve was made by Jocelyn McElhiney and seconded by Joan Scott. A **ROLL CALL** vote was taken and all four sets of minutes were approved (as corrected) unanimously.

**APPROPRIATIONS REPORT:** Expenditures are on target.

**ACTING LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** This report focused on the **MAR** (Minimum Appropriations Requirement) which is leveled on all Massachusetts public libraries by the MBLC. Since towns and cities vary in size and income, a formula is applied to "level the playing field". Under this formula, each municipality must allocate a minimum appropriation to its library for materials expenditures. If the MAR is not met, the library may be de-certified. De-certification

would mean the loss of all state funds and the inability to participate in inter-library loan (ILL). Patrons would also lose their ability to directly borrow from other libraries in the State. At present Northborough uses State aid to pay one half of the CWMARS membership. To lose this would be devastating. Chair Rechill pointed out that in FY 2020 the materials budget was cut in order to preserve staff. Further cuts could certainly threaten our meeting the **MAR**. Selectman Rogers expressed concern but felt he lacked a thorough understanding of the matter. He will meet ASAP with the Chair and the Acting Director to further explore the issue. It is imperative that, as our liaison, he be able to thoroughly brief the full Board of Selectmen when the Library budget is considered.

The acting director next laid out the time line over the next few months for the presentation of the FY 2022 Library budget.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Member Neeta Karanjkar requested Board permission to mount a weekend display in the Library of the celebration of the festive holiday of lights, Diwali. The Board felt that if ever the Town needed a festive occasion, it is now and approved the request.

There being no further business before the Board, the Chair called for a motion to adjourn and noted that the **next Board Meeting will be December 8, 2020 @ 7 PM**. Motion to adjourn was made by Mitch Cohen and seconded by Neeta Karanjkar. A **ROLL CALL** vote was taken and approved unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:51 PM

Respectfully submitted,

James Hogan, Board Secretary