

**Auburn Public Library Board of Trustees Joint Session with Board of Selectmen
March 14, 2022
Minutes**

Meeting Called To Order by Chair LaLiberte at 7:00 PM.

Board of Selectmen Present:

Tristan Laliberte, Chair
Sara Rufli
Scott Wrenn, Vice Chair
Lionel Berthiaume
Dan Carpenter- Virtually

BOT Members Present:

M Toth, Virtually
Erika Briesacher.
Jon Danilowitz
Mary K. De Coursey, Chair

Absent:

Suzette Dowd, Vice Chair
Jennifer Shea

Chair De Coursey was invited by Chair Laliberte to proceed with the meeting. The BOT Chair recognized member Matt Toth, and informed the membership that she would be following Mr. Toth with five nominations put forth by Vice Chair Suzette Dowd who was not available to attend.

Matt Toth thanked the Board of Selectmen for inviting the Board of Trustees to a meeting to discuss nominations of names to dedicate to the planned renovations at the Auburn Public Library, despite not being included in the initial conversation about the process. He emphasized that the Board of Trustees appreciated and felt honored by the gesture of inclusivity.

Matt expressed his appreciation for the suggestion of the Dr. Arthur and Dr. Martha Pappas because of their obvious and generous support. He recommended that the *Board of Selectmen* consider the *Board of Trustees* efforts over the past 150 years. He was not suggesting the current BOT, but rather the collective efforts of dedicated BOT members over the years, such as: Frank Cassidy, Tom Lawler, Marcia Reich, Kevin Flynn, Phil Parker, Bobbi Baker, William Flannery and Nan Johnson.

Chair De Coursey explained that Vice Chair Suzette Dowd met with Julie Jacobson to advocate for the “big picture of the whole Auburn community” and that she has a strong conviction that residents deserve to have a “voice in the process.” She provided Chair De Coursey with her recommendations and requested that she present them at the Joint Session.

Matthew Toth, who served the Auburn Public Community from 1978 to present as a School Committee Member, the Chair of the BOT and as a Town Meeting member and he established the process to reestablish the 501C3 status and has committed hundreds of hours to research for the betterment of APL. **Jean Collins**, who has served the Town of Auburn as Library Director for the past six years. Works hard and has provided wonderful programming.

Elizabeth Johnson, who served the Auburn Community community for over forty years as a teacher, a principal and the founder of the *Early Act Theater Club* for K-12 students.

Dr. Arthur and Martha Pappas, who have been “the most generous philanthropists in Auburn. They seek to promote the welfare of others especially by the generous donations of money to improve the library facility.”

Nan Johnson, who has served the Town of Auburn for sixty years as a Reading teacher, a Board of Trustee member for thirty years, and “she has always been the voice of reason. She has improved the entrance of the library with gardens for many, many years... Nan is a serious advocate and promoter of Auburn.”

Vice Chair Dowd would like to advocate for the Board of Selectmen to consider that this process of naming could be:

1. Put on a ballot.
2. Allow the decision to be an item for town meetings.
3. It needs to be a more deliberative process.

“I believe there are many qualified nominations and why can’t we wait for the sunroom to be built and ask the public to be heard on this matter.”

Chair Laliberte thanked the BOT for the participation in the Joint Session and the meeting ended at 7:14pm

Respectfully Submitted by Mary K. De Coursey, Chair