

Auburn Public Library Board of Trustees

May 5, 2021 Meeting 6:30pm

Attending for BOT: Mary DeCoursey (Chair), Nan Johnson, Paula Melican, Jen Shea (Clerk), and Matt Toth

Attending for Library: Jean Collins, Director

Meeting called to order at 6:38pm. Meeting was recorded by Auburn Cable TV.

Minutes

March 2021 meeting minutes will be reviewed in June.

Service Recognition – Nan Johnson

BOT Chair:

The long-term commitment and service to the Auburn Public Library Board of Trustees has made Nan Johnson a truly unique member. Her contributions range from the beautification of the Library entrance, her significant contributions to the recent Strategic Plan and her consistent thoughtful attention to fiscal issues. In the past, book sales were important to help the library pay for programs, for Nan and Will, they were a family effort to support the library. You need help, ask Nan. In her early years on the Board of Trustees, when her role came under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 78, she was directly involved in the responsibility for hiring and evaluating the Director, meeting with the Finance Committee regarding Library budgets, speaking with Town Meeting members and generally working for the benefit of the library and the community. She worked tirelessly on the plans for a new library in 2005, supported by the town meeting members but not voted on at the town election. Past Directors saw her as an important element in discussions of the operations of the Library. As a regular user of the library, with interests ranging from children to adult literature and programs and, she knew the strengths and needs of the library. Over her years, as technology was becoming an increasingly important change in library operations and service, she embraced, encouraged, and supported the changes necessary for the library to stay relevant. Her gentle and direct approach to issues reflected a civility that is often hard to come by in our current environment. We will miss Nan; the community has lost a strong supporter of the importance and value of the Auburn Public Library. We wish her well as she moves to her new role as a Town Meeting member. Thank you, Nan!

Library Director:

The Library staff wholeheartedly joins me in thanking Nan Johnson for her years of dedicated service on the APL Board of Trustees in support of the Library. You have certainly seen a lot of history and evolution!

Nan, you have consistently been positive and very supportive of our many changes and initiatives, recognizing that the changing dynamics of services and resources require constant evolution - and a lot of hard work! You have provided me, personally, with many supportive comments, either in emails, in person, or at meetings, and I appreciate those, and your suggestions.

You will be missed on the Board – don't forget to continue to stop in!

Director's Report/Bill Schedule

The Director's Report and the Bill Schedule were reviewed.

Trustee Business

APL website update; updates to BOT listing and roles. Recommend description of BOT and access to meeting information and minutes.

Auburn Public Library Friends update provided by M. Toth; anticipate an update in August/September 2021.

Charter change process to be discussed in June; Mary to invite Town Manger to attend meeting.

Youth Survey update – discussed tabling until post pandemic; Mary to connect to Sage Consulting on cost and update of timeline.

Strategic plan goal around formalized feedback; discussed BOT interest in formalized feedback from community and how it was incorporated into strategic plan. Jean shared and BOT understands that the goals for the Director are not a part of the BOT role. BOT reinforced continued interest in obtaining formalized feedback from library patrons and the community and appreciation of goals that Director and Town Manager will establish. Discussion around QR codes on signage for a brief survey were had as well as possible interest in sharing idea with Town Manager.

Next Meeting

June 2, 2021 at 6:30pm and to be held virtually

Meeting adjourned at 7:39pm on motion by M. Toth and seconded by N. Johnson

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Lee Shea