

A **virtual** meeting of the Trustees of the Public Library was held on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 6:15 p.m. Those virtually present were:

Axelrod (6:20)	Burstein	Chanyasulkit	Healy	Jones
Livingston	Lohe	Margolis	Martin-Page	Vanderkay

Also virtually present: S. Slymon, Director; E. Mitchell, Assistant Director of Technology; Kristin Hung, and Rachel Oberai-Soltz, Trustee candidates.

**\*\* All motions were taken by roll call vote.**

**I. Approval of Minutes**

**M** A motion was made to approve the December minutes. This motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**II. Library Director's Report**

**Circulation**

The report was distributed via email to Trustees.

**Financial**

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Pw6i\\_vFQmky8ZDoMMMRdV\\_z2xCEsElw9QhfQVI08RMY/edit#gid=1795794717](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Pw6i_vFQmky8ZDoMMMRdV_z2xCEsElw9QhfQVI08RMY/edit#gid=1795794717)

**This month in libraries**

The Director shared several interesting articles. They can be viewed at:

<https://www.libraryjournal.com/?detailStory=Stepping-Up-at-Scale-editorial-covid-19>

<https://www.libraryjournal.com/?detailStory=Congress-Omnibus-Federal-Spending-Package-Funds-IMLS-for-FY21-No-COVID-Relief-for-Libraries>

<https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2021/01/04/2020-year-in-review/>

**Covid/Re-Opening**

The Director reported that any forward movement towards re-opening further has been arrested by the surge in cases since Thanksgiving. Dr. Jett expects that the situation is going to get dramatically worse before it gets better. The Director spoke to Fire Chief Sullivan and Health Commissioner Dr. Jett about the fact that libraries have been left out of the three-stage vaccination deployment schedule. Both indicated that this could actually be a good thing, as it would enable library workers to get put into phase two with teachers. There is currently no classification for municipal employees outside of school staff.

The Director thanked the Chair, R. Healy, and Treasurer, C. Lohe for writing a letter to MA Secretary of Health and Human Services Sudders, urging her to include libraries in phase two with teachers.

At the time of the writing of the Director's report, Brookline was right on the line between yellow and red (i.e., yellow = greater than 10 average cases per 100K OR greater than 4% positivity rate, and red = greater than 10 average cases per 100K AND greater than 4% positivity rate). Brookline was anticipated to be red before the January 12, 2021 meeting. Thus far, Cambridge, Lexington and Dover have gone back to a complete shut-down of public buildings and libraries. We are anticipating more libraries following suit shortly. In an interesting turn of events, these closures were precipitated by their Town leadership, rather than their Library Directors.

At this time, the Town (including the Library) is planning to roll back to Phase 2, Stage 2, possibly effective January 19, 2021, and extending for a month. The Director announced that this is not going to require a reduction in hours, staff, or services. The plan is to keep everything the same, except instead of face-to-face delivery of materials, an intercom system will be employed, which will prevent any public/staff interaction. A draft of impacted services has been distributed.

**Staff:** All vacant positions that we had planned to fill have been filled. We are deliberately leaving several page positions vacant. Those positions will be filled shortly before we re-open the doors to patrons. Unfortunately, we have quite a few current staff who are in quarantine due to travel and COVID exposure. So far, no one has become symptomatic or even tested positive, and for that we are grateful, although it has caused some staffing challenges.

**Frank Caro Memorial:** The Director has asked the Frank Caro Committee to assist her in finding a location to place a table in his memory at the Coolidge Corner Branch. The Director will send the committee a doodle for possible meeting dates and times.

**Book Sale:**

The Book Sale has been shut down, due to the onset of winter.

**Patriot Act:** The library has not been served with any court orders since the last meeting.

### III. Committee Reports

Trustee Search Committee Member K. Livingston gave an overview of the upcoming Joint Convention process, to convene after the board meeting. Trustee Search Committee Member C. Chanyasulkit prepared detailed instructions on how to join the Select Board zoom conference tonight at approximately 7:30 p.m., and Secretary, K. Martin-Page distributed them to the Trustees via email.

### IV. Old/New Business

**Director's Evaluation:** The Trustees were reminded that the Director's Evaluation needs to be turned in no later than January 19, 2021, per the Director Evaluation 2020 Timeline.

**M Library Advocacy:** Treasurer C. Lohe described more about the letter that she and Chair Healy drafted for the MA Secretary of Health and Human Services, advocating for her to prioritize the vaccinations of the library staff, as described above in the Director's Report. The

letter was inspired by Representative Tommy Vitolo, who'd also reached out to Secretary Sudders regarding vaccinations for library staff. A motion was made to have the Chair send this letter to the Secretary Sudders, urging her to prioritize the vaccination of library staff by placing them in the same category as teachers for vaccinations. This motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The Board also agreed to distribute the letter through the MBLC Trustees listserv in hopes of encouraging other library boards to advocate to Secretary Sudders.

C. Lohe led a discussion about the lack of Library Trustee representation on the Brookline Commission for Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Relations, in spite of the portion of the Commission's mission that provides that Library Trustees be represented on the Commission. The board discussed how such representation would align with the board's values around diversity, equity, and inclusion. The board agreed to learn more about getting Trustees represented on the Commission, and the Chair appointed a subcommittee for the same, comprised of C. Lohe and K. Martin-Page.

**Bear Naming Committee:** J. Margolis is still working on the Bear Naming Committee. He will report back to the Board.

**V. Adjourn**

**M** There being no further business to come before the meeting, upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimous:

Voted: To adjourn at 7:09 p.m.

A true record.

ATTEST



Koinonia I. Martin-Page

Secretary

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