

BOARD OF TRUSTEES, NEWBURY TOWN LIBRARY

MEETING 11 AUGUST 2021

Meeting convened at 9:30 in open meeting space, NTL.

Attending: Richard Passeri, Terry Litterst, Jean Ackerly, Erin Ouimet, Alex Burke

Absent: Richard Ravin and Margaret Grimes

Director Ackerly reviewed her Report, including:

Newbury Council on Aging occasional use of Library meeting spaces

Activity regarding art displays of local artists in the recently redecorated Community Room

Development of quotes for possible replacement of the Community Room's well-worn floor covering

Staff adherence to CDC guidelines for mask use

Installation of OWL technology to facilitate hybrid participation in Library programs

Currently fluid scheduling of Yoga classes and Writers' workshop

Creation of abundant youth programs for this Fall

Activation of NTL's newly acquired publication BAR-code equipment

De-cluttering and re-organizing of the Circulation Desk

DPW's recent, initial maintenance of NTL's plantings and landscape, with special attention those about the exterior mechanical equipment – to this first effort and others to be anticipated, the Trustees voted unanimously to express their entire appreciation and approval

Assistant Director Ouimet next reviewed her Statistics Report for July 2021:

It revealed a heartening increase in post-reopening circulation, most happily in comparison to pre-COVID circulation in July 2019 and July 2018

Digital circulation abated slightly but held strong

Visitations increased by a whopping 2,044%....

Meantime, oddly it would seem, online usage experienced some increases along with some decreases

Discussion then ensued regarding possible creation of a running statistical abstract which would highlight to the Town the utilization of the library.

The meeting then turned its attention to matters of staff compensation. After discussion, a strategy emerged for presentation to the Town Administrator of specific steps during FY2022 and FY2023.

The meeting then considered NTL's local history collection and participants decided to convene in mid-September a gathering of Newbury's interested parties to evolve the next steps in gathering, conserving, maintaining, utilizing, and making available to the research public Newbury's multiple historical resources.

Anticipated attendees: members of the Newbury Historical Commission, Town Administrator Tracy Blais, Town Clerk Leslie Haley, and the Trustees, Director and Assistant Director of Newbury Town Library.