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 ensured 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.