

**Groton Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**  
**April 13, 2021, Virtual Meeting**  
Approved, 5/11/2021

**Call to Order:**

**Attending – Via Zoom:** Mark Gerath, Kristen von Campe, Jane Allen, Kate Bettencourt, David Zeiler and Library Director Vanessa Abraham. Nancy Wilder joined late.

Support and attendance by Bob Colman of Groton Cable.

Kristen von Campe, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

**Vote Summary – All Votes were by Roll-Call**

- The Trustees voted to approve the March 9, 2021 minutes as amended. Jane moved to approve both minutes and Kate seconded. The minutes were approved by a vote of four approving and one abstaining. Nancy was not present for the vote.
- The tuition reimbursement request by Lauren Sanchez was approved subject to the conditions defined in the reimbursement policy. Jane moved to approve the motion and Kate seconded. Approved by a five to zero vote with Nancy absent.
- Jane made the motion to adjourn and David seconded. Approved unanimously.

**Action Items**

- Vanessa to send the letter regarding the display at Rich State Forest to the Groton Herald.
- Vanessa to provide any materials necessary for Town Meeting by April 23.
- Mark to draft a letter of acknowledgement to the Diversity Task Force of their letter on overdue fines.
- Vanessa to discuss with staff the potential to draft a letter for inclusion in the Dr. Seuss books withdrawn from publication.
- Kristen to set up schedule for contribution to staff appreciation events.
- Vanessa to speak to electrician regarding installation of spotlights on the Ray Ciemny sculpture.

**Unfinished Business**

Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 9, 2021 Meetings Completed, see vote summary.

Report on Action Items from Previous Meetings Reviewed and all completed.

Review Trustees' Calendar for Current Month

**Standing Committees and Liaison Reports**

**Budget & Finance**

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Review Library Budget Items in Spring Town Meeting Warrant

No changes have occurred to the proposed budget. The budget will be considered at the Spring Town Meeting.

**Building & Equipment**

Review Library Capital & CPC Items in Spring Town Meeting Warrant

No changes to either the Capital or CPC items since the last meeting. Both will be considered at the Spring Town Meeting.

**Policy, Personnel, & Planning**

Staff Tuition Reimbursement Request for Endowment for FY2022 for Lauren Sanchez

Lauren Sanchez has requested approval of tuition reimbursement subject to satisfying the requirements of the policy. The cost of tuition is \$2,300 for three courses, of which 50% would be reimbursed if a B grade or better is achieved. The request will be forwarded to the GPL Endowment Trustees for action at their next meeting. Request was approved – see vote summary.

Diversity Task Force Letter

The trustees are in receipt of a letter from the Town's Diversity Task Force advising of the ALA's policy statement on elimination of late fines. The trustees discussed the letter, noting that most fines have been suspended due to COVID until August 31, 2021 and that elimination of fines should involve discussions with the Town's financial team. A letter of acknowledgement will be sent to the task force, see action items.

Dr. Seuss Enterprises and Dav Pilkey Book Decisions

The recent decisions by the owners of the Dr. Seuss copyrights to withdraw certain books from publication and the similar decision by Dav Pilkey to withdraw one his own books were discussed. It was noted that 85% of children's librarians indicated that they favored removing the books from circulation. Vanessa suggested that the books should remain in circulation but include a posting describing the issue. The Trustees indicated support for this approach.

Staff Appreciation Discussion

Staff appreciation will occur on three separate days with two trustees contributing food, flowers, and note of appreciation. Kristen will set up a schedule.

**Liaison Reports**

GPL Endowment Review Draft FY2022 Request from Library Staff The substantial increase in the annual expenditure available from the Endowment was discussed. The amount for FY22 will be \$103,702. David suggested that a bike rack on Main St. should be considered to be supported by the Endowment. Participation in Tutor.com has been disappointing and it will not be purchased again.

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Art Committee : An exhibit will be planned for September if not earlier. The exhibit on the Groton Conservation Trust's Bates property was discussed. The potential to provide better lighting for the Ray Ciemny sculpture was considered.

Social Media Report None.

**Other Business**

None

**Library Director Reports**

Monthly Director's Report

The monthly report was reviewed.

Library News & Updates

One staff member has been quarantined due to potential exposure to COVID.

Town News & Updates

- Devens has been approved as a vaccination site.
- Candidate Night will be held on May 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Early voting will be allowed.
- In person meetings will be only allowed for town events after the Governor lifts his order prohibiting them.
- After the prohibition is lift the meetings will be routinely available via Zoom.

Groton Reads

Over 30 programs have been scheduled, a great effort by the organizers.

Programs & Service Updates

The Spring newsletter has been produced within the library and distribution has been on an ad hoc basis. This seems to have worked well.

Library Insight Replacement

Staff is looking for a replacement by the end of the year for Library Insight for four major software functions. Beanstack is being considered for one of the functions, the summer reading module; the remaining modules for an event calendar, meeting/study room bookings, and museum pass management, staff is looking at Assabet Interactive. Assabet has used by many area libraries who have been very happy with it.

Reports & Statistics

Statistics were reviewed.

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**Wrap-Up**

Review of Action Items from Current Meeting: See above.

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

- Next Trustees Meetings @ 7 PM: May 11, June 8, and July 13, 2021
- Spring Town Meeting: Saturday, May 1, at 9 AM with rain date on May 2.

Adjourned at 8:04 PM - see Vote Summary

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Gerath, Secretary