

HALL MEMORIAL LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

7:00 PM

Video Conference Meeting

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ELLINGTON  
TOWN CLERK

In attendance: Mary Blanchette, Chair, John Halloran, Janet Wieliczka, Judy Stomberg, Gabbi Mendelsohn; Susan Phillips, Library Director, Patricia Grundman, Assistant Director/Children's Librarian, Francie Berger, Reference Librarian/Program Coordinator, Peg Busse, Friends of the Library President, Melinda Ferry, Board of Selectman Liaison

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.

Approval of the minutes of the meeting of April 21, 2020 was tabled until next month.

Mary Blanchette reported that the Board of Finance passed the FY2020-21 budget at their May 14 meeting. It is a zero mill increase budget. The budget amount for the Library was set at \$675,478. Susan Phillips presented an update on the current budget year, noting that there will be overages in the Books and Materials line due to the unplanned but necessary purchases of the digital materials needed to support our patrons during this pandemic. She also reported that some fine income has been received because patrons are able to pay online.

Francie Berger made a presentation about the events being prepared for summer programming, and explained in detail the "Seek and Read: the Great Ellington Book Hunt" event. This is an all-ages, outdoors, town-wide event, in collaboration with businesses and the Ellington High School art department. Other activities, such as take-away crafts kits and online programs were discussed.

Peg Busse reported on the concerns of our FOL and other state Friends groups about the future of fund raising activities like large book sales, Mini-golf and our Book Cellar.

Susan Phillips gave an update on operations, including the curbside pickup of materials, online programming and support of the teachers and students. She reported that curbside pickup activity is increasing as more patrons hear of the service. Communication with the community remains the challenge. Lawn signs have been obtained and a press release has been sent to the JI. She also shared her plans and sought ideas for reopening the library, with no certain date for that to occur.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Blanchette