

Dover Town Library Board of Trustees Meeting  
9/12/23, 8:30 am  
Dover Town Library

**Attendees:**

Trustees: Erin Rodat-Savla, Judith Schulz, Peter Hoffmann, Tracy Tobin, Ameer Tejjani, Robert Andrews

Director: Bethany Klem

The meeting was called to order at 8:33 am by Ms. Rodat-Savla.

**Community Comments:** None

**Welcome** to new Trustee, Rob Andrews! Director Klem mentioned that the MBLC offers Trustee orientation online and handed out booklets, *Trusty*, to everyone.

**Minutes:**

- 6/7/23: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Tobin, seconded by Mr. Hoffmann, and unanimously approved by the Trustees.
- 6/13/23: A motion to approve the minutes (after a few minor revisions) was made by Mr. Hoffmann, seconded by Ms. Rodat-Savla, and unanimously approved by the Trustees.

**Town Newsletter:**

- Ruth Townsend will be moving on from being the main contact; replacement TBD.
- Ms. Schulz will send information about the Amelia Peabody sculptures for the September edition.

**Director's Report:** Trustees discussed key items of interest with Ms. Klem.

- New YA Librarian, Tobi, is settling in nicely and excited about rebuilding the teen programming.
- Elevator was hopefully fixed this week (reprogramming of processor); FY '26 capital budget request for bigger overhaul of electronic components.
- AC has recently been working properly!
- Website redesign is going well; estimate launching it before the end of the calendar year.
- New HR person, Robin Tusino, at Town Hall...a great addition!
- Dover Days was fantastic! 351 people stopped by and had 14 new library card signups!

- Can library information be included in the “Welcome to Dover” materials sent to new residents?

#### **State Items:**

- Concerning news: Dudley Library closed because the town cut off funding due to budgetary issues. The town also slashed budgets for other core municipal services.
- MA State Legislature has proposed a bill to effectively ban book bans. State Aid would be contingent upon libraries adopting the ALA’s Freedom to Read statement (Dover Town Library had done this already).

#### **Gifts:**

- A motion to accept \$37,747.68 from the Mary Louise MacKay Trust and deposit it in the general Library Gift Fund (as has been done in the past), was made by Ms. Rodat-Savla, seconded by Mr. Hoffmann, and unanimously approved by the Trustees.
- A Virginia Precourt painting (artist lived on Pine Street in Dover) has been offered to the Dover Town Library by Joan King, a former Library Trustee. The painting is titled, “Family Sunday”, and depicts children reading. Virginia Precourt’s works are found in more than 80 public, private, and corporate collections throughout the country. A motion to accept “Family Sunday” for display at the Dover Town Library was made by Ms. Schulz, seconded by Ms. Tejani, and unanimously approved by the Trustees.
- Our current policy for material donations is “at the discretion of the Trustees”. This policy will be looked at again when we revisit/revise our gift policy in the near future.

#### **Meeting Room Policy Waiver Request:**

- The Friends of the Dover Library would like to host their monthly meeting in person at the library in the Community Room on 10/6 at 9:30 am. As this is prior to the opening of the library, and falls out of current policy, it requires approval from the Trustees. Director Klem, a staff member, will be present at this meeting. A motion to approve the Friends of the Dover Library meeting on 10/6 at 9:30am in the Community Room was made by Ms. Tobin, seconded by Ms. Tejani, and unanimously approved by the Trustees.

#### **Board Operations, FY ’24 Planning:**

- Trustee Assignments:
  - Chair: Ms. Rodat-Savla; someone needs to be on deck for May 2024 (following town elections), as Ms. Rodat-Savla is not planning to run for re-election.
  - Secretary: Ms. Tobin

- Planning/Evaluations: Ms. Rodat-Savla and Ms. Schulz, Strategic Plan; Ms. Tejani and Mr. Hoffmann, Director Evaluation; Ms. Rodat-Savla, Board Self-Evaluation (revise)
- Finance: Mr. Andrews (planning) and Ms. Tejani (day-to-day)
- Policy: Mr. Hoffmann and Ms. Tobin
- Facility: Ms. Schulz and Mr. Andrews
- Friends of the Dover Library Liaison: Ms. Tejani
- Please think about how much agenda time you will need during the year to cover your areas and send requests to Ms. Rodat-Savla.
- Please complete the MA required Conflict of Interest Training as soon as possible.

**Strategic Plan:**

- If you have any questions about this project, please reach out to Director Klem.
- Engaged in an exercise...who are we? “The library as a \_\_\_\_\_ center...
  - Reading & Literacy
  - Community and Culture
  - Civic Engagement
  - Education & Research
  - Discovery & Learning
  - Work & Career
  - Social Services
  - Other
- Please think more closely about who we are, who we want to be, and how we might get there. Share thoughts with Director Klem.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:57 am.

Respectfully submitted by Tracy Tobin.

Documents referenced in these minutes are available upon request from the Town Clerk’s Office.