

**Mount Laurel Library  
Board of Trustees  
Minutes of Regular Meeting via Zoom  
October 20, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:01 P.M.

**FIRE SAFETY INFORMATION:** Provided by Ms. Sawyer

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETING LAW STATEMENT:**

Ms. Sawyer stated that this meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice of the meeting was provided by way of the Burlington County Times, the Courier Post, and the Mount Laurel Sun, and it was posted in the library and on its website.

**ROLL CALL:**

Gina Acerbo – present  
Beth Demaio - *absent*  
Noreen Duffey - present  
Susan Fortuna – present  
Nick Moustakas – *absent*  
Fredda Sacharow – present  
McKenna Samson - *absent*  
Stephanie Sawyer – present  
Walter Stridick – present

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Ed Campbell, Esq.  
Becky Boydston  
Gayle McCormick

**NATIONAL FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES WEEK:**

**RESOLUTION 2021-28: National Friends of Libraries Week**

Ms. Sawyer read aloud the proclamation that Mount Laurel Library Board Trustees officially recognize October 17 to October 23, 2021 as National Friends of Libraries Week. Our Friends work very hard to support the library in many ways. Their fundraising efforts allow the library to offer museum passes and to purchase new furniture and other items for use in the library and for the good of the community. We thank them for all they do. Ms. Bernie Garofalo, President of the Friends of Mount Laurel Library, was in attendance to accept the Certificate of Proclamation. She promptly left to continue working on preparations for the Friends October Book Sale as preview night was just beginning.

Motion to approve: Ms. Duffey  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Ms. Sacharow

Roll Call: 6 yes votes

**APPROVAL of MINUTES:**

Approval of September 22, 2021 minutes of meeting:

Motion: Mr. Stridick

2<sup>nd</sup> Ms. Acerbo

All in Favor

**APPROVAL of BILL LIST and BILL LIST ADDENDUM:**

Motion: Mr. Stridick, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ms. Sacharow

Roll Call: 6 yes votes

**REPORT FROM LIBRARY STAFF:**

Ms. Boydston and two other library staff members attended a training class on Fostering an Antiracist Library Culture. The class concentrated on auditing collections and programs to ensure diversity of offerings, and on library policies and staff-related issues. The first focus in our library will be on auditing book collections to determine diversity of topics and characters, beginning with juvenile fiction.

Ms. Sacharow asked how such an audit of a large collection of books might be undertaken. Ms. Boydston said the process involves the use of spreadsheets to record diversity of characters for inclusion of all races, disabilities, LGBTQ and neurodiversity representation. The task will not be quick or easy but the goal is to ensure the collection offers at least 10% of options with subject and character diversity.

Mr. Campbell suggested that a simplified approach to broaden diversity might be to focus on future acquisitions. Ms. Boydston will be including that in her overall approach. Ms. Sacharow, Ms. Duffey and Ms. Sawyer expressed interest in volunteering time to help audit the existing collections.

Ms. Boydston also said the Mount Laurel Township Diversity and Inclusion Committee will hold its first meeting in January 2022 under the direction of Town Council Member Karen Cohen, former Library Board Trustee. The library will send a representative to the meetings and will offer programs, reading lists and a forum for meetings.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Nothing to discuss.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION 2021-029: Authorization to Sell Surplus on Discover Books**

This is a continuation of periodic efforts to remove outdated and otherwise unusable materials including books and DVDs from the library's collection since the last approval.

Motion to approve: Ms. Duffey

2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Stridick

Roll Call: 6 yes votes

**RESOLUTION 2021-030: Authorization to Sell Surplus on GovDeals**

Ms. Boydston periodically lists items for sale which are outdated or no longer needed at the library.

Motion to approve: Ms. Acerbo

2<sup>nd</sup>: Ms. Sacharow

Roll Call: 6 yes votes

**Capital Projects**

Last month Ms. Boydston offered some suggestions to consider for capital improvements to the library. One of them was the installation of an outdoor pavilion on library grounds. Meredith Tomczyk, Township Manager and Jerry Mascia, Director of Municipal Services stopped by to review the proposed site and discuss the matter. They both think the pavilion is a good idea and offered in-house services for construction of a concrete pad. They also have experience working with a state contract vendor who built similar structures at Laurel Acres Park. Electrical work will be required as well as construction of a sidewalk from the library building to the pavilion. Ms. Boydston will meet with an engineer next week to discuss the proposed project further.

Mr. Stridick asked if the pavilion would include lighting and security to prevent loitering when it is not in use. Ms. Boydston is not yet sure but will provide more information as it is known.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No public in attendance.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn at 6:28 PM: Ms. Duffey

2<sup>nd</sup>: Ms. Fortuna

All in favor