



Amber Moroney
 Library Director
 Dedham Public Library
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Board of Library Trustees
 Shirin Baradaran, Chair
 Tom Turner, Vice Chair
 Annette Raphael, Clerk
 Brian Keaney
 Crystal Power
librarytrustees@dedham-ma.gov

DEDHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
7:00 p.m., December 13, 2022: Town Hall

MEETING CALLED BY	Board of Library Trustees, Dedham
TYPE OF MEETING	Regular monthly meeting
CHAIR	Shirin Baradaran
VICE-CHAIR	Tom Turner
CLERK	Annette Raphael
ATTENDEES	Brian Keaney (Trustee) Crystal Power (Trustee)
PUBLIC ATTENDEES	Amber Moroney, Director Lauren Goldberg, Town Counsel Many Dedham citizens, librarians, and employees

Comments or Questions: Amber Moroney, amoroney@dedham-ma.gov, 781-493-4299
 Underlined items are action items

Comments or Questions?

Amber Moroney, amoroney@dedham-ma.gov, 781-751-9281

AGENDA:

For a full viewing of the meeting and specific comments, please refer to <http://50.77.30.238/CablecastPublicSite/show/3620?channel=3> and/or to the December 16 Dedham Times.

- **Call to Order-** Shirin Bardaran called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. and thanked the many people in attendance for coming and being willing to share their thoughts. She laid out the parameters for the extended public listening session, doubling the time normally allotted, requesting that each person limit their comments to 2 minutes to ensure that many people had an opportunity to share their thoughts, and asking for people to refrain from responding to comments.
- **Statement from the Director –** Director Amber Moroney acknowledged feedback, pledged to review all policies relating to holiday decorations and asked for a two-hour closure of the library on the 14th to

allow the staff to work together. Brian Keaney moved to close the library for two hours on the 14th for internal discussions, Crystal Power seconded the motion and all trustees voted in the affirmative.

- **Public Input (1 hour max)** –26 people shared comments about a variety of things including reaction to the decision not to have library trees and the rescinding of that decision, favorable comments about library staff and programs, the role of social media in discourse, the nature of exclusion and inclusion, mistakes that can serve as learning opportunities, and questions about town responsiveness to feedback.
- **Discussion: Library Decorations and Displays** – Each of the five trustees shared their perspectives about the library’s tree policy, noting that the decision was not a board decision and that the board could have no meetings to immediately address the mounting public feedback in order to comply with open meeting laws. Board members both affirmed desire for inclusivity and diverse feedback, and deplored the toll that the conversation had on library employees. The board also applauded the increased library usage, and invited the public to continue to be involved in the implementation of the new strategic plan.

At this point public input ended and an intermission allowed most attendees to leave before the conclusion of the regular board meeting. The meeting resumed at 8:30.

- **Director’s Report**
 - Dedham circulation is up a great deal and the patron count has increased 25%
 - Interviews are anticipated for the part-time archivist position that will enhance the library’s value to town history
 - A proposed redesign of the main room in the main library was shared with the goals of better serving programming, making computers more easily accessible, and moving Young Adult materials to be next to teen space
- **Discussion: Non-Emergency Closings**
 - Brian Keaney made a motion to table this to a future meeting, seconded by Crystal Power and the vote was unanimously in favor.
- **Discussion and Vote: Update on Capital Projects**
 - James Carr, architect, sent a memo to Bernardo Rodriguez, Project Manager for Dedham Facilities and Maintenance outlining a long list of recommendations for the library to increase accessibility and work toward meeting ADA compliance regulations.
 - A meeting with the Facilities Department split the recommendations into two immediate projects. The first is to repair the front steps of the main branch; addressing the front of the library would be separate. A brief conversation ensued about timing of the projects and how to ensure safety without a huge investment that may later be undone when aspects of the strategic plan are implemented. The next step will be for Amber Moroney to set up a meeting with a board member, the architect, the project manager, and herself.
 - Once a building study is complete and community input is gathered, federal grants for ADA compliance can be investigated.
- **Discussion: 2023-2026 Strategic Plan Implementation**
 - Brittany Tuttle, Program and Outreach manager, has been meeting with program staff to increase organization, outreach, and variety of programs.
 - Amber Moroney has updated the timeline for action items of strategic plan.
 - The trustees invited the Director to alert us with support needs. The implementation of the Strategic Plan is owned by the Director but we are eager to support her staff in appropriate ways.
- **Discussion and Vote: Begin Annual Budget Process**

- Each year the library submits a budget. A level budget is due January 6 and any contemplated new initiatives are due January 13. This year a budget narrative is required to be submitted with the budget, which the library has actually provided in the past, and which will now be shared with both the Finance Committee and Town Meeting members.
- A liaison from the library is needed for the budget process and Brian Keaney made a motion to nominate Tom Turner, who volunteered, seconded by Crystal Power, and unanimously affirmed by the board.
- Most of the new initiatives are tied to the recently completed strategic plan, updating technology, and addressing deficiencies in the website.
- **Discussion: Plan Library Director's Annual Review**
 - The Town Charter updates at town meeting included changing the reporting structure for the Library Director so that she would report to the Town Manager rather than the Board of Trustees. That update is working its way through the State Legislature. It seemed prudent to wait until that structural change was ratified. Tom Turner moved to table any plans for a review until the reporting structure was clarified. Crystal Power seconded the motion and all trustees voted in the affirmative.
- **Discussion and Vote: Approval of Minutes from November 3, 2022**
 - Tom Turner made a motion to approve the minutes but Crystal Power asked for tabling that vote as she was not able to find the minutes, so it will be on the agenda for our January meeting.
- **Old/New Business***
 - Brian Keaney suggested having the community contribute their favorite book of the year and Amber Moroney thanked him for his idea.
 - The trustees thanked attorney Lauren Goldberg for attending the meeting
- **Schedule Next Meetings**
 - January 5, 2023
 - February 2, 2023
 - March 2, 2023
- **Adjournment**
 - Brian Keaney made a motion to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. which was seconded by Crystal Power and unanimously affirmed by the board.