

**BRIDGEWATER PUBLIC LIBRARY  
TRUSTEE COMMITTEE BOARD MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**January 24, 2023**

<b>Meeting Called By</b>	<b>Connie Franciosi</b>
<b>Type of Meeting</b>	<b>Regular</b>
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	<b>Matthew Gerritsen</b>
<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Connie Franciosi (Chair), Matthew Gerritsen, Janet Dye, Nancy Sarno, Robyn Golden Jennifer Anderson, at 7:13 Jed Phillips, Director</b>
<b>Call to Order</b>	<b>7:02 p.m.</b>
<b>Meeting Adjournment</b>	<b>9:06 p.m.</b>

**Meeting of the Board of Public Library Trustees (the “Trustees”) of the Bridgewater Public Library (“Library”) was held in person at the Bridgewater Library. The date, time and access information were posted pursuant to the relevant open meeting rules.**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM.

**1. AGENDA APPROVAL:**

It was moved (Dye) and seconded (Golden) to approve the Agenda, motion passed unanimously.

**2. SECRETARY’S REPORT:**

Minutes of the December 2022 meeting, previously circulated by Trustee Oliari, were approved.

**3. CHAIR’S REPORT**

a. Noted the programming event in early January of Jerry Lagadewc’s Native American flute music and poetry. He was very appreciative of the opportunity and the Chair encourages the Library to have additional indigenous peoples programming in the fall.

b. Holiday Open House was conducted by the staff. Chair came to the sing-a-long. Music was wonderful and Library physical plant was looking its best. Garden Club decorations were very nice,

c. Library will continue the spirit of the recently expired Year of Giving for the indefinite future.

d. Trustees Tidbits section of the Library website has been functioning well, increasing rotation speed of the featured Trustees will be the next goal.

e. The Chair asked the Board to consider how best to support Board approved actions and intents.

**4. CORRESPONDENCE:**

A letter was received from the Juneteenth Committee, thanking the Board for prior participation, and asking if the Board intended to participate in the 2023 celebration.

**5. DIRECTOR' S REPORT**

Written report submitted and attached.

**6. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- a. Building and Grounds- No Report
- b. Policy and Planning- No Report
- c. Special Events and Outreach- considering Library card signup opportunities

**7. OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. Christmas on the Common. Logistically the event went well and people enjoyed it a lot.
- b. Trustee Letterhead Review. Trustee Gerritsen will bring a sample of the consensus favorite to February Meeting.
- c. Friends of the Library. No additional information on formation. Trustee Gerritsen will follow up with Lauren DeFilippo and provide any additional information at February Meeting.
- d. Winter Book Sale. The event was very successful in regards to both public participation and the number of books sold. The downstairs public room will be used for all future sales due to logistical ease.

**8. NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. 2023 Juneteenth Celebration. The Board discussed the Celebration to be held on Saturday June 16, 2023. The Board addressed its previous participation, public interaction and the effectiveness of its participation in the Library's mission. The Board unanimously resolved (Golden, Dye):

“To continue following the Committee’s plans for the Celebration and to participate if the Board determines an effective and meaningful program, recognizing the Board’s limited resources, can be implemented.”

The Board then discussed several options and decided that a story trail would be appropriate and could also be used at the Library before and after the Celebration.

- b. Trustee Gerritsen expressed his desire to withdraw as Secretary of the Board. Due to the number of absences the Chair asked, and Trustee Gerritsen agreed, to table the matter until the February meeting.

**9. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: February 21, 2023.**

*There being no further business the meeting was, upon motion duly made and seconded, adjourned at 9:17 PM.*

## Remarks for 50th anniversary of Bridgewater Public Library

Welcome everyone! Thank you for coming. How nice it is to see such a great turnout to celebrate the anniversary of our wonderful library. Thank you, Marcia and Judith for recapping the early years of our library. Being a relative newcomer, only 30 years in Bridgewater, I learned a lot. I want now to share some thoughts about the recent past and present-and maybe a peek into the future. Let's go back about 3 1/2 years ago when we unexpectedly lost our library director to resignation. Not to worry the library continued to run smoothly and efficiently under the able leadership of Ann Gerald and a committed staff. The search for a new director seemed to move at a glacial pace at time but finally in November of 2019 we got our man and Jed was hired as our new director. He came on board in late December and got right to work getting to know the library, staff, community and making plans for the future. Come March, however, as we all know everything came to an abrupt halt. The institutions we all rely on-schools, churches, community groups, gyms were physically closed to us. Jed and the library staff had to make a 180 pivot and find new ways to reach out to patrons. It wasn't too long before programs popped up on the library website and we could see staff virtually. For me as a patron, it was very reassuring to see Emily showing us how to make a flag out of corks, Rose sharing her artistic talents or Cindy reading a story to children or leading them in a movement activity. This provided some semblance of normalcy because we now had a connection to our library. This sense of normalcy increased a little bit more when curbside pickup started. It was fun to see which staff member would come out the back door with our latest requested books or DVDs and we could actually have a quick chat. It was also a reminder that the library is not just books and tangible items the bond that we patrons share with the staff. My hat is off to the entire library staff for the the work and creativity they showed during a very difficult time and especially to the new staff who had to begin their tenure with us not having met their colleagues or patrons for quite some time.

Despite the challenges Covid presented, Jed was still able to address some of his initial goals. Among them was the library website which was much in need of an update. In the fall of 2021, it was finally launched-colorful, professional looking with lots of information and helpful links. Jed also created a weekly Bullet Bytes newsletter letting patrons know the latest happenings at the library.

I want now to change focus and tell you a little about the library trustees and who we are. We are a group of nine Bridgewater residents elected to three year terms in the town election each spring. Currently many of us come from a professional educational background -teachers and administrators but in addition we have a lawyer and health care administrator. We are a nice balance of veterans on the board and newer, younger members.

Along with serving in an advisory capacity to Jed, we have become a more active group in the last couple years. We have assisted with the spring and fall book sales and in 2021 participated in the first Juneteenth celebration here in Bridgewater and did so again this June featuring a storybook trail and other activities for children. Last December we participated in Christmas on the Common and were a very popular stop as we gave out wrapped, free books identified to children. Both kids and adults were most appreciative and could not believe they were free. We have been enthusiastic supporters of the newly created Library of Things.

Among the features of the new website, Jed created a trustee page for us. We have had fun creating it, starting with our Black Lives Matter statement in 2019, our biographies and pictures, and most recently a section called Trustee Tidbits. If you visit our page, which I urge you to do, you will this month see a very nice, detailed description of the Library of Things.

With all these activities, our ongoing aim is to support the libraries' mission to educate, inform, enrich and inspire.

At our September trustee meeting, Jed reviewed with us his 5 year plan for the library. It was thoughtful, well researched and well written with exciting and ambitious plans for the future. There was one little problem, however, that was apparent: a few autocorrect errors that I picked up in looking it over. One in particular jumped out at me. My question to Jed was did you mean to say the library vibrates or did you really mean the library is vibrant. He was quite apologetic, assured us that it had been corrected. Later that evening, it occurred to me that vibrate was not so far off after all. The library often does vibrate with all kinds of activity: with new learning, with creative projects, engaging programs and enthusiasm. As a recent example, I mention the chess club which met Tuesday as the trustees met near by. If you took a peek inside the room, you would see a multigenerational group of boys, girls, adults engrossed in their games and silently vibrating with quiet energy. Vibrate or vibrant, they are both applicable here. The Bridgewater Public Library is on the cutting edge of what a modern library should be and it is one that we the patrons and citizens of Bridgewater can be most proud.

Thank you!

**BRIDGEWATER PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING TUESDAY, JAN. 24**

**Director's Report**

*Facility*

- Museum Space
  - First exhibit to be installed by end of week (focusing on Civil War and Bridgewater veterans)
- Heating Repairs Paused (again)
  - Parts for register repairs came in and did not fit.
  - Turns out exact parts for the version of registers we have (due to age) are no longer in production.
  - Modification of systems to accept parts currently in production no longer a cost effective plan.
  - Town Facilities Manager is reviewing potential for staggered register replacement plan.
- Historical Room
  - Historical Room has reopened and is fully functional.
  - A few end caps for new shelving were sized incorrectly but correct replacements are on their way.
  - Minor organizational work still to be done, but it is open for public use.

*Staff*

- New Office Manager/Financial Coordinator, Darci Neves, started with us on Jan. 19. He is settling in quickly and I have every confidence that he will be up to speed quickly and have our records and budget restructured and better organized in a timely manner.
- Search for part-time circulation assistant still ongoing.
- 4 promising resumes on hand for Library Archivist position. Interviews are being scheduled.

*Programs/Events*

- Apryl's Story Times continue to bring in between 30 and 40 attendees each time.
- Teen Anime Club is thriving
  - 15 to 20 kids on average meeting weekly
  - Also attending drawing/art sessions
  - Initial interest in a teen Dungeons and Dragons program which we hope to start up in Feb. or March.
  - Increased daily usage of library by teens has been observed.
- Dec. and January have seen a series of successful adult programs as we recalibrate our offerings. Noted events include:
  - Musical performance of Native American flute by local Jerry Lagadec
  - Holiday Pop-In Celebration

- An ongoing series of online video game tournaments in conjunction with several other libraries.
- Painting/crafting programs
- Initial Dress a Girl Around the World meeting
- A presentation on the importance of Bridgewater's wetlands
- Regular meeting of book clubs, writer's group, the Chess Club, and Anime Club
- Upcoming special programs:
  - Motivating the Unmotivated Student Wed. Jan. 25
  - Social Security educational program, Tues, Jan 31
  - College Financing Program offered by MEFA, Tues, Jan, 31
  - Big Ryan's Toddler Show, Feb. 1
  - Sketching w/ Shane and Teen Dungeons & dragons on Monday nights
  - Anime Club every Wednesday after school
  - Dress A Girl Around the World, Feb. 8
  - Tax Seminar, Feb. 15
  - Dahlia Program Presented by the Bridgewater Garden Club, Feb. 22
  - LEGO Free Build Feb. 25
  - Various regular occurrences of the Writing Group, Book Club, Chess Club, BSU Senior College, Movie Showings, etc.
- Library Book Sale very successful.
  - Moved a large inventory of donated materials.
  - Increased in library visitors of more than 100 people over average Saturday numbers



## **TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER**

**Notice of Posted Meeting to all  
Town Departments, Boards and Committees and the General Public:  
(as required by the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A)**

**NAME:** Bridgewater Public Library Board of Library  
Trustees

**DATE:** January 24, 2023 **TIME:** 7:00

**PLACE:** Downstairs Meeting Room

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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**Clerk/Board Member Signature**

**AGENDA:**

**See attached.**



**Bridgewater Public Library  
Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
Third Tuesday of Each Month**

**Agenda**

1. Agenda Approval
2. Secretary's Report
3. Chair's Report
4. Correspondence
5. Director's Report
6. Committee Reports
  - a. Budget and Personnel
  - b. Buildings and Grounds
  - c. Policy and Planning
7. Old Business
8. New Business
9. Schedule Next Meeting

Executive Session if necessary