

**ADAMS FREE LIBRARY**  
**BOARD MINUTES – May 27, 2021**

Chairman Jim Loughman called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. in the Trustee Board Room. Present were trustees Brian Bishop, Virginia Duval, Karen Kettles, Eugene Michalenko and Lynn Rhoads. Also present was Library Director Holli Jayko.

**Public Comment:** none

**Secretary's Report:** Eugene Michalenko made a motion, seconded by Lynn Rhoads, to accept the minutes of the January 21, 2021 meeting. The motion carried 6-0.

**Treasurer's Report:** Library Director Holli Jayko summarized the recaps of the town budget and trust funds interest income account. Virginia Duval made a motion, seconded by Brian Bishop, to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion carried 6-0.

**Unfinished Business:** Holli Jayko gave a recap of the status of the Columbus Miller Fund. All funds have been received from the Bank of America stock with a view toward turning the fund over to the Taconic Foundation. Karen Kettles will give Jim Loughman the information she was able to put together to account for any dividends, about 15 years' worth. Jim Loughman will follow up with a report to the Probate Court, seeking permission to make the transfer.

**New Business:** Western Mass Library Advocates support collaborative efforts to increase state funding to libraries and strengthen our voice in statewide conversations about library needs. The Trustees have historically donated each year. Karen Kettles made a motion, seconded by Virginia Duval, to approve withdrawing \$127 from the Unrestricted Statement Savings Account, \$125.00 for Western Mass Library Advocates and \$2 for the money order fee. The motion carried 6-0.

**Library Director's Report:** On June 1st the library will return to normal summer hours, Monday through Friday, with no appointment needed. The Board of Selectmen have asked that visitors to all town buildings continue to wear a mask. Our lower-level meeting room is still being used for library takeout but we are transitioning to a new model which will bring "take-out" to the main floor. Our Summer Reading program for all ages begins June 14, 2021. Our adult book group meets on the last Thursday of the month at 2pm. Our newest staff member is Natasha Beauchesne. She has a Bachelor's of Arts in English and comes to us highly recommended by her current and past employers. She is proficient with computers, communicates well and is very organized.

After consulting our Collection Development Policy, surveying the public, and researching the topic, we will not be renewing our subscription with Thomson Reuters for the Mass General laws.

The Library has been fine free during the pandemic and we are considering staying fine free. In Berkshire County six libraries had already gone fine free prior to the pandemic and five more are planning to stay fine free after the pandemic. Libraries have noted that fining patrons works against everything that public libraries ought to stand for. "We're disproportionately affecting the people we're most interested in getting to the library," said Meg DePriest. With unpredictable costs hovering over each checkout, financially strapped families decide it's safer not to use the library at all. For those library systems that have gone fine free the overall financial impact has been neutral. (Article by Ruth Graham) For our library, fines represent about 1% of our operating budget. The libraries I have been in contact with have a donation box at the circulation desk and they typically bring in more donation money than they collected with fines.  
<https://youtu.be/U-a5B6UXF2c>

**Reports of Committees**

**Investments** [Jan, May, Sept]: Postponed until our next meeting.

**Building Maintenance:** The water heater was replaced, along with several feet of pipe back to the water main. We are waiting on transom window repair and the new roof ladder. We need to look into options to repair, replace or remove the urns on the parapet wall of the roof.

**Friends:** Lynn has taken on the responsibility of liaison with our Friends group. She reported that the Friends met May 18<sup>th</sup> and approved funding for the Summer Reading Program and are planning the next Book Sale fundraiser. The President, Carleen Butler, has stepped down and they will be voting on new officers at the June meeting.

**Public Computer Maintenance:** None.

**Announcements and Good of the Order**

The next meeting is scheduled for June 24, 2021, at 4 p.m.

With no further business, Brian Bishop made a motion, seconded by Lynn Rhoads, to adjourn at 5:20 p.m. The motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

*Holli Jayko*

Holli Jayko, Library Director and Trustee Secretary