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Board of Library Trustees

Gladys E. Kelly Public Library, 2 Lake Street, Webster, MA

Minutes for Emergency Meeting, Friday, June 30, 2023

In Virtual Attendance

Rena Klebart, Chair, Martina Koziak, Treasurer, Jeanne Mikels, Secretary, Mary Chabot and Sue Buehler. Sondra Murphy, Library Director, and Evan Hale, Assistant Director and Clerk, were also in virtual attendance. Guests Pat Nectow and Allison Caraceni were also present at the beginning of the virtual meeting.

Absent:

Rich Franas, Vice-Chair, Evelyn Pappas

Called to Order

Meeting called to order at 11AM.

Public Comment

Allison Caraceni made a public comment regarding the situation in Dudley, and stated her preference that the GEKPL and Trustees choose to help their neighbors in Dudley.

Information Regarding Library Closure

Rena invited Sondra to explain the ramifications of Dudley's potential Library closure, and the driving thoughts behind the Proposed Policy on Lending to Residents of Municipalities with Decertified Libraries Draft being considered at this emergency meeting. Sondra provided the currently known details regarding the decertification status of the Dudley Library, and the potential effects on the Gladys E. Kelly Library, both positive and negative. The following discussion among the members included comments made both in support of, and against adopting the policy.

Policy on Lending to Residents of Municipalities with Decertified Libraries

Options available to the Trustees:

Rena presented the options available to the Trustees:

1. continue to allow members of decertified municipalities to borrow materials,
2. charge a fee to each member of the decertified library for creating a Gladys E. Kelly Public Library card,
3. not allow members of decertified communities to borrow Gladys E. Kelly Public Library materials,
4. to enter a contractual obligation with the Town of Dudley to provide library services.



Mary Chabot made the motion to not allow members of communities with decertified libraries to borrow Gladys E. Kelly Public Library items; Martina seconded. A Role Call Vote was taken: Mary – aye, Jeanne – aye, Sue – aye, Martina – aye and Rena – aye.

Lending to Residents of Decertified Libraries Policy:

Sondra reviewed the proposed policy. Mary Chabot moved to adopt the policy as written; Jeanne seconded. A Role Call Vote was taken: Mary – aye, Jeanne – aye, Sue – aye, Martina – aye and Rena – aye.

Outreach regarding this decision:

Rena questioned if the Board felt that outreach regarding this decision should be done. The following recipients were suggested: the Dudley Town Administrator, Dudley Board of Selectman, The Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library Board of Directors and Rick Lafond, Webster Town Administrator to share with the Board of Selectmen.

Sondra stated that Rick Lafond, Webster Town Administrator, had previously recommended not reaching out to the newspaper regarding this decision.

The Board agreed the newly adopted policy should be communicated as suggested.

The Policy will not be enforced to residents of any municipality until or unless their Library officially loses its Certification by the MBLC.

Adjournment

Martina moved to adjourn; Sue seconded. A Role Call Vote was taken: Mary – aye, Jeanne – aye, Sue – aye, Martina – aye and Rena – aye and the meeting was adjourned at 11:49AM. .

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Mikels, Secretary

Evan Hale, Clerk

Exhibits (to be posted on the Library Website)

Policy on Lending to Residents of Municipalities with Decertified Libraries

Minutes Approved as Amended: July 13, 2023