

BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

January 14, 2020, 7:00 PM

Shrewsbury Public Library

609 Main Street

Shrewsbury MA

1. **7pm call to order of the Board of Library Trustees Meeting.** A special meeting of the Library Trustees was held to make a final decision on a new library director. Present: Joan Barry (by remote participation), Jeff Billingham, AnneMarie Bird, Nancy Gilbert, Dean Gillam, Deb Lebeaux, Kevin McKenna, Lisa Powers, Chairperson Clare O'Connor, Search Committee member Ashish Cowlagi, and Library Director Ellen Dolan.
2. **Search Committee Recommendation for a New Library Director and vote of the Library Trustees.** Search Committee Chair Kevin McKenna gave an overview of the search process. There were sixteen applicants for the position of library director; this was a smaller number than anticipated. Five were selected as semi-finalists, and from that small group two were selected as finalists: our own assistant director Priya Rathnam, and the director of the Boylston Public Library, Jennifer Bruneau. Each of these two candidates went through a day long interview process that included a tour of the library, a meeting with the Search Committee, a meeting with the library department heads, lunch with the Search Committee, a one hour session with library staff, a meeting with town leadership staff from three town departments (Assistant Town Manager Kristen Las, Jane Lizotte from the School Department, and Angela Snell from Parks and Recreation), and finally a meeting with the Library Trustees. Kevin McKenna noted that both candidates were part of a very lively discussion with library staff that in each case could have gone on for much longer than the allotted time. After the interviews were over the Search Committee reconvened and discussed the two candidates for a full hour. Kevin McKenna notes that both candidates were exceptionally vibrant and strong, and that after much discussion the Search Committee voted unanimously that Priya Rathnam should be recommended as the new library director. A motion to accept the Search Committee's recommendation that Priya Rathnam be offered the job of Director of the Shrewsbury Public Library was made by Dean Gillam, seconded by Deb Lebeaux, and unanimously approved by each trustee. Library Director Ellen Dolan thanked the Search Committee for all of their work in recommending a new library director.
3. **Contract Negotiations.** The personnel subcommittee consists of Kevin McKenna, Nancy Gilbert and Lisa Powers. The personnel subcommittee and Clare O'Connor will meet with Town Manager Kevin Mizikar to discuss negotiating a salary for our new library director.
4. **The Library Foundation.** Trustee and Library Foundation Board member Nancy Gilbert reports that Clare Nagle's term on the Foundation Board expired last month (December 2019). She has decided that she no longer wishes to serve on the Library Foundation Board. Nancy reports that the Foundation Board would like one to two new members. Mike Pagano is the new Chair of

the Foundation Board, and Nancy Gilbert is now Secretary. The Board has its next quarterly meeting on January 27th, and will meet again in April. The Trustees will put out a request for Letters of Interest to the community.

5. **Conclusion of the Meeting.** At 8:01pm a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by AnneMarie Bird, seconded by Dean Gillam, and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Library Trustee and Secretary, Lisa Powers.