

Hartland Library Board of Trustees -- Emergency Meeting, Friday, March 13th

Present: Nancy Tusinski, Laura Bergstresser, Dana Jacobson-Goodhue, Sarah Stewart Taylor

The meeting was called to order at 3:32 p.m.

We discussed how to respond to current conditions around the spread of the coronavirus. The decision was made to suspend the tech tutor's in-person meetings and to ask our cleaning service to do more disinfecting.

We discussed the average age of our patrons and volunteers and the fact that they are at a much greater risk for contracting the virus.

Nancy told us that she has pulled toys and puzzles because it is very difficult to disinfect them according to current guidelines.

The board discussed a new policy for guidelines around closing the library due to pandemic.

Sarah made a motion to adopt the new Infectious Disease Outbreak policy. Laura seconded.

The motion passed 3-0

We discussed whether or not to close the library to the public now. The board wants to maintain access to library materials, but has many concerns about patrons, staff and volunteers congregating in the library. Current health guidelines suggest that libraries are excellent vectors for spread of the virus and we are extremely concerned about our patrons, staff and volunteers, many of whom are in the high risk category.

We discussed the many ways we can continue to offer services and materials to the public if we close the physical building to the public. Nancy will investigate the feasibility of curbside pick-up of books and materials, staff will be available to sign patrons up for Libby and Overdrive, and Amy will hold online storytimes. Staff will continue to work in the library building during their regular hours as long as it is safe to do so.

Laura made a motion that the library be closed to the public as of Tuesday, March 17th. Dana seconded. The board expressed great sadness at taking this step, but determined that it was the best option to protect the health of our community. The board voted 3-0 to close the library to the public.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40.