

JONES LIBRARY

NORTH AMHERST LIBRARY • MUNSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

MEETING MINUTES

Public Body: The Jones Library, Inc. Personnel, Planning and Policy Committee

Date: January 15, 2021

Time: 9-10:30am

Location: Via Zoom

Present: Chris Hoffmann, Austin Sarat, Director Sharon Sharry, Head of Special Collections Cyndi Harbeson

I. Public Comment

None

II. Minutes

None

III. Loan of Special Collection Materials

Bennington Museum has requested the loan of several materials related to Robert Frost for an exhibit they will be presenting in April and lasting about four months. Head of Special Collections Cyndi Harbeson described the materials and asked that the request be granted. She was unsure of the appraised value of the items, but both she and Sharon feel it would be great exposure for our collections. The PPP wanted to ensure that the Bennington Library had a security policy and sufficient insurance to cover any potential loss or damages.

Move that the PPP recommends to the Board that items listed by Cyndi Harbeson be loaned to Bennington Museum contingent on proof that they have adequate insurance. Approved unanimously.

IV. Reopening Plan

The Director presented her plan for a phased reopening of the Jones, based on current Town and State Guidance. There was a question as to whether there was Town-wide guidance on serving people without masks? The answer is simply saying you have a medical reason is sufficient. Proof is not required. Therefore, we should rewrite mask policy to reflect this. There is recognition that this an evolving document and further revisions are likely before the Library is actually reopened.

V. Action Plan

The PPP is unsure that the action plan as we currently present it is a useful document. For instance, it is very long but most items are fairly generic and don't have well-defined criteria for success. It would be good to compare with other libraries approaches and see if we can come up with something better.

Move that the PPP recommends the Board approve the 2021 action plan, but to ask the PPP to review alternatives with the goal of simplifying and abbreviating future action plans.

Approved unanimously

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