

Meeting of the Jones Library, Inc. and the Town Libraries' Board of Trustees
March 11, 2022 4:45 p.m. meeting conducted via Zoom webinar

Members Present: Austin Sarat, Farah Ameen, Lee Edwards, Alex Lefebvre, and Tamson Ely
Members Absent: Bob Pam
Also Present: Sharon Sharry, Lewis Mainzer, and members of the public (7 attendees)

1. Meeting called to order at 4:45 p.m.

2. Library Mask Mandate

The town lifted the mask mandate on March 10 and the schools will lift their mandate on Monday. In consultation with the staff, both the Library Director and the staff are recommending the Library lift the mask mandate. We still serve patrons who cannot be vaccinated and want to be mindful and respectful of those who wish or need to continue wearing masks.

The Library will continue to offer masks. Staff will continue to receive free K95 from town. Plexiglass will remain in place and there will continue to be testing for staff.

Representative Domb attended meeting of Board of Health last night. The state is contemplating closing the testing site at UMass but we are hoping the state would reconsider the idea of closing that testing site as it would leave the closest site as Springfield.

Will online programming still be made available? Yes. Staff is also looking to do programming outside.

MOTION: The Board approves the Library Director's recommendation to lift the Library's mask mandate in all three Library Buildings in tandem with the Town of Amherst. Approved 5-0. (Pam – absent)

When will capacity limits be lifted? Staff would like the opportunity to see how things go and then revisit.

There was a general agreement that if we vote yes to maintain current capacity limits, it is with the understanding that Library Director in consultation with the Health Director, at her discretion can reinstate full capacity when she deems appropriate.

MOTION: The Board approves the Library Director's recommendation to maintain the 50% capacity limits in the library's meeting rooms and the Branches, as well as the prohibition of food and drink in the Library's meeting rooms. Approved 5-0 (Pam – absent)

Meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Alex Lefebvre