

Town of Collins Public Library Board of Trustees – Safety Committee Meeting

Agenda: Monday, June 28, 2021 @ 2 pm

Held via GoToMeeting: Present: President Holly Martindale, Director Abbie Barten-McGowan, Trustees Barb Ferro, Edith Schell, Rob Gaylord

1. Call to order

2. Updates

- The scheduled meetings for 4/20, 5/4, 5/18, 6/1, 6/15 were cancelled because there were no new updates to the plans.
- Metrics: Rates of cases in Collins and Gowanda have been staying low and steady, Abbie has been monitoring them weekly. However Collins remains the lowest vaccination rate in the county. Gowanda is one of the lowest levels in NYS.
- Abbie has communicated any state changes to the committee as they became available.
- NYS changed the occupancy levels. As of 5/15 it was to 75% and 5/19 to 100% - but still requiring masks and social distancing (at the time of the announcement). Our upper limit is still the cap based on social distancing.
- 5/18 - NYS change in mask mandate beginning Wednesday 5/18.
 - Guidance from System: maintain the mask requirement.
 - Staff: Fine with keeping mask requirement.
- 6/3 – System said that since decrease in Erie County cases, vaccinated staff didn't need to wear masks when they weren't working with/in view of the public. This will be done on the honor system, and the library System is not requiring proof of vaccination. An optional question about employee vaccination status has been added to the Pre-Entry Health Questionnaire.
 - Since we're always in view of the public, this doesn't affect us.
- NYS "reopened" with no mask mandate starting 6/16/2021 for vaccinated individuals
 - Abbie noted the rate of vaccination in Collins zip code (14034) was only 34% as of the last reported numbers. (Gowanda was not much better on the latest state reports, but that info is harder to get since it's not our county/split between counties.) She contacted the Library System to ask about maintaining our masking requirement due to this fact, and they said it would be justified. Abbie continues to monitor the rates.
 - We discussed at what level vaccination or positivity rate we should remove the mask requirement at. Since there has been little change to the vaccination rate, and we believe the data may be flawed, we don't anticipate it changing much. Not sure if there will be movement until younger children are able to be vaccinated. We will wait 2 weeks and reexamine the data.
 - We discussed the population and vaccination rate of the prison (about 30% of 926 people).
 - We don't want to start and stop the requirement, so will maintain for now.
 - Abbie will get in touch with the Library System Town of Collins for feedback, and the Gowanda Library to see what they are doing.

- 6/17 – System says they don't believe it is necessary to update the Safety or reopening plans with the Pre-Entry questions or the Mask updates.
- 6/24 – NYS State of Emergency ended. Waiting on info about what this means for meetings.
- 6/25 – NYS will no longer require the Pre-Entry Health Questionnaires, and we will discontinue them at that time.
- Review of safety and reopening plans and any updated state guidance.
 - Discussion of opening the meeting room to outside groups. (This is a state minimum standard.) Will revisit next time.
- On Hold: Children's toys
 - Should we reintroduce these? Soft and plastic? Should we add cleaning protocols for these? That would mean more staff time. Does cleaning do anything?
- On Hold: Programs
 - If we cannot enforce masks, should we continue to offer programs? Particularly for children who are too young to be vaccinated? Should this be left up to the programmers?
 - Is honor system good enough protection for children?

3. Meeting adjournment.