

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

Minutes: Thursday, January 13, 2022 @ 11:30 am

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

1. Call to order

2. Updates

- We cancelled meetings since 7/26/2021 because there were no changes that required discussion.
- On 11/23/2021, Erie County reinstated mask requirements in all indoor settings, including libraries.
- About 12/5/2021, Governor Hochul instated a mandate that indoor venues instate a mask or test policy. The library is maintaining the masking requirement.
- Metrics: Rates of cases in Collins and Gowanda have been rising after the summer and autumn, spiking now in winter. Abbie has been monitoring them weekly.
- Abbie noted the rate of vaccination in Collins zip code (14034) remains at 40.6% for ages 20+ as of the last reported numbers (1/8/2022). (Collins, Gowanda, and Collins Center are 3 of the 5 worst zip codes in the county.) Abbie continues to monitor the rates.

Discussion of the updated guidelines from Erie County for quarantining and isolating, and how it may lead to possible closures for the library.

The group decided to try to avoid staff overlapping hours in this period, and stressing social distancing by encouraging only one person at the desk or in an area at a time.

In-Person programming was discussed, and Abbie went over all of the procedures in place again, and how much the community appreciates the activities and the safety. We have decided to continue in-person programs, as long as staff feels safe.

Mask and possible test distribution was discussed, and we decided the current placement works best. We have received masks from Erie County, but not tests, as the County had previously announced. We did decide to strengthen the signage at the door to encourage people, particularly those who may have symptoms to use curbside pickup.

Discussion about kids toys in the library, and we plan to keep them away at this time.

3. Meeting adjournment.

Respectfully submitted, Abigail Barten-McGowan, Director