

Brewster Public Library Board Meeting Visit (Zoom)
Wednesday 23 February 2022

Peter Carey
Priscilla Goldfarb

The director and board extended a warm welcome.

This meeting was attended by the full board. In addition to MHLS trustees Peter, who is a Brewster library trustee and Priscilla, the director of Dover Plains Library was present as an observer as part of obtaining her certification.

There was a clear agenda, posted on screen, that contributed to a focused and productive meeting, guided by the board president. There was a noticeable respect and comfort level between and among board members and director that allowed for frank and full discussion on all topics.

Every board member appeared well informed and engaged in discussions, which ranged from facilities, contracts and policies to patron interactions, staff concerns and COVID protocols. There was extensive and thoughtful discussion about the evolving COVID situation, including but not limited to the challenging dynamics of mandates, facilities use, risk management and safety of patrons and staff while offering as full a range of programs and services as possible. Of particular note was the desire to serve the community and the stress on staff of not knowing every time the library door opens what health risk or complicated patron interaction might ensue.

Peter and Priscilla emphasized that our three MHLS reps from Putnam are there to represent Brewster and are available at all times. We offered congratulations on the grand reopening of the library last September following redesign and construction. On behalf of MHLS's advocacy efforts, Peter spoke of his outreach to Brewster's local legislator. Priscilla outlined the upcoming MHLS advocacy plans for the week of 28 February and posted links in the Chat.