



2021
TOWN
ELECTION



CONTACT

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LIBRARY TRUSTEE

DENNIS AHERN ~
INCUMBENT

INITIAL STATEMENT

I grew up in Arlington, Mass. and was a frequent visitor to the Robbins Library. My first foray into civic life was at the age of ten when I addressed the Board of Selectmen in support of increased funding for the Library. I've been an advocate for Libraries ever since. My wife and I came to live in Bedford in 1974 and lived here until 1977 when we moved to Acton, where I was first elected as a trustee of the Acton Memorial Library in 1982. I served until we returned to Bedford in 2017 where I was elected a trustee of the Bedford Free Public Library in 2018.

After a career as a technical writer for Raytheon, RCA, and Digital, I found myself on the lecture circuit, speaking on various historical and genealogical subjects.

See

<https://theworld.com/~ahern/cv.htm> for a partial list.

I now stand for re-election as a trustee of the Bedford Free Public Library where I hope to draw on my experience to help the Library staff provide the services needed by our community.

QUESTIONS ~ LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

How do you foresee the Trustees might tap into the experience of the past year to enhance services and outreach to the community? Do you envision greater services to different segments of the population?

It's a miracle of human evolution that the squiggles you see before you have meaning. Letters become words. Words become sentences. Sentences convey information. You need to exercise your brain to form ideas based on this data. You can also derive information from images or from the spoken word, but as your brain does not have to be engaged to absorb this information it's all too easy to accept misinformation as fact.

Our experience of the past year has shown us that our democracy is a fragile thing, dependent on the participation of an informed citizenry. As a free public Library, we must do everything possible to enhance access to information.

As a community hub, the Library has no equal but there are features that could make it an even more welcoming place. What “dream big” ideas would you suggest, even if they are not achievable at the moment?

Many of our seniors have become even more isolated due to the pandemic. While the Library has managed to continue circulating material through curbside pickup this leaves out those who are shut in. I would like to look into partnering with Meals on Wheel to deliver books to those who cannot get out on their own. Who knows, some day we may be delivering by drone.