

MN Spear Memorial Library Minutes
3/20/17

Attending: Mary Anne Antonellis, Library Director, Molly Moss, Chair, Michele Regan-Ladd, Dale Houle, Michele Cunningham
Absent: Brad Foster, Kate Cell

February minutes approved as amended

Director's report – In addition to the information on the report, Mary Anne updated us on money set aside in Library account. We expect that after the next fund raiser, Valley Gives we will be at about \$300,000. This includes money in the town held account, donations from anonymous donors, Friends account, and the funds recently received from Florence Savings Bank (\$947).

Molly, Michele R-L, Dale and Brad will put signs on their property for Valley Gives.

We will discuss Town Meeting Planning at our next meeting in April.

Mary Anne and Brad attended Legislative day which was a big success with over 300 people attending which is about 100 more than last year.

Michele and Mary Anne will report back in April from the Master Plan Working Group since meeting last week was cancelled and will occur on Tuesday, March 21.

Collection development policy - Molly will continue to work on this and will finish before her term ends.

Artifacts update—Mary Anne spoke with Jamie Donta (local archaeologist) to be sure that Paul's find did not constitute a problem. Jamie said there is rarely a problem between archaeologists and individuals conducting searches with metal detectors. Karen is not willing to give the artifacts to the historical commission because they would not be available to the public. UMass library is willing to take if we do not want to take them. Paul is willing to meet with Mary Anne and give an annotated list of where things came from and what they are. UMass Library and Wendell library recommended that Paul write a letter transferring ownership. We will accept the artifacts and keep in a box for now. Mary Anne will contact the patron to let her know what we have decided. When we look at collection development policy we can clarify how to handle gifts such as these.

Advocacy letters: Trustees each wrote 6 letters to both state and federal legislators to express our concern and request support. At the state level the proposed budget does not support the MBLC legislative agenda and is lower than it was 10 years ago. The proposal in the federal budget eliminates the Institute of Museum and Library Services which provides money to help fund the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) and provides local communities with grants that help support valuable

programming like the very popular STEM programs Mary Anne has developed and conducted over the past several years.

Next Meeting April 24, 2017, 7:30 - Mary Anne will post.

Proposed Agenda:

- Approval of minutes and director's report
- Town Meeting planning
- MPWG updates

Minutes respectfully submitted by Michele Cunningham

Director's Report

On March 1st I attended a workshop hosted by the Community Foundation about using social media to promote a non-profit organization.

On Tuesday, March 8th, Brad Foster, Janis Gray and I attended Library Legislative Day at the State House in Boston. We visited with Rose DeCosta, senior aide to Senate President Rosenberg and Nick John, Representative Steve Kulik's Chief of Staff. Brad did a great job of sharing his experience of visiting many libraries our region and noticing all the ways the public makes good use of them. Janis, who has been checking in inter-library loan items for a very long time did a great job sharing how popular the service is and how much its use has increased. More than 300 people attended the event this year – 100 more than in previous years.

On Friday, March 10th I attended a small library director's meeting at the Massachusetts Library System offices in Northampton. Many topics were discussed including advocacy, collaboration with neighboring libraries, the value of spending time with other library directors to discuss ongoing topics of interest and concern, and book sales. The director of the library at the Hampshire County Jail attended. It was very interesting to learn about this very different kind of library and its unique needs.

On March 15th, the Friends of the Library were awarded a Florence Bank Customer's Choice Award grant of \$947! This gift will be added to the Friends' New Library Fund.

On Saturday, March 11th, a group of volunteers from the Sirius Community met me at the library at 8 am for a morning of heavy cleaning. They removed books from shelves, washed and dried the shelves and then returned the books. We worked until 10 am when the library opened. We were able to clean about 2/3 of the library shelves.

On Tuesday, March 21st I will attend a Valley Gives workshop about effective messaging for non-profits.

The health science info workshop I had planned for March 14th has been postponed until early May.

Yoga will begin March 22nd instead of March 15th.

On Sunday, March 26th, a group of volunteers (more volunteers needed) will gather at noon at the Town Hall for a Valley Gives work party. We will be making lawn signs to put out around town on Valley Gives Day and preparing a mailing. Please let me know if you are able to host a lawn sign. The signs will just be up for one day.

The President's budget eliminates funding for the IMLS, about \$238 million. The Empowering Public Libraries to be Science Literacy Resources is an IMLS grant. The Steamrolling at the SLEW Libraries grant was an IMLS grant.

Here is a link to the MBLC legislative agenda for discussion at our meeting.

<http://mbclclegislativeagenda.com/>Line 9401 funds the delivery and if level funded there will be cuts to delivery in FY18. Line 9506 helps fund C/W MARS. As funding for line 9506 has gone down our local assessment has increased. Line 9101 funds the MBLC and they have been operating at a deficit for three years in a row.