

M.N. Spear Library Trustee Meeting
April 27, 2015

Members present – Michele Sedor & Michele Regan-Ladd, Co-chairs, Gail Fleischaker, Kate Cell, Molly Moss

Library Director – Mary Anne Antonellis

Absent – Dale Houle

Guest – Robert Raymond, Jeff Lacy

1. Director's report:

- Linda took Select Board Secretary job, so she's not as available to work at the library. Mary Anne has been talking to people about using the sub pool. JoAnne Burnhart, who has been a regular volunteer, is interested in working and has started some training.
- We got the big STEM Grant with the state of Maine, 8 were awarded to the MLS. First meeting of library directors will be in June in Portsmouth, NH. Creating STEM libraries with resources in public libraries, 6 pilot libraries in Mass and 3 in Maine. The population being served through this grant are the patrons we serve. We will share the grant with Wendell, Leverett and Erving; group Mary Ann has been working with.
- Person from MBLC is coming to do a site visit, when we're having a STEM program.
- Kayaks will be available starting around Mother's Day weekend.
- Town Meeting – Friends of the Library are having a café; people are welcome to make refreshments for sale.
- Spring Clean-up is being organized by Susie Mosher.
- Kate Cell offered to help with adult programming on science & policy with this STEM Grant.

2. Discussion about whether the library should be open or closed on Town Meeting day – A motion was made to always be closed on Town Meeting day – all were in favor. Will be posted as a policy on the town's web site.

3. Perpetual calendar – needs updating – Michele Sedor has been the keeper, but will not be here after June. Will be on the agenda for May to update.

- Suggestion that we have an afternoon tea at the AC, a potluck, similar to event we have for a retiring Trustee; potluck event with flowers. Possibly on a Sunday at 1:00 in early June.
- General maintenance - Building needs painting and new sign.

4. Visioning Process Discussion & Concerns Expressed by Trustees –

- Robert Raymond, member of GCC (Group for Civil Communication) – sees the difference in the newest proposal to the Select Board is that it has a longer duration for the project.
- Concerns expressed about presentation about the Visioning Process to the Select Board: people were unclear if Jeff Lacy was representing himself as a member of Planning Board or member of GCC or as himself.
- In a letter presented to Select Board by Jeff Lacy or the GCC, it was stated that "the former library opponents and the Library Trustees have endorsed the project and that was progress already", however, The Trustees original endorsement was that the Library Trustees did not want to be seen as leading this Visioning Process. Trustees had asked that endorsement also be sought from other committees in town and only then could the Trustees could support it.
- Concerns expressed how every time that this proposal is presented, it looks different, so it's hard to support it. Trustees wonder are we being asked to support the visioning process and/or the warrant

article. It was our understanding that the Planning Board's support was conditional based on our conditional support.

- Robert Raymond, a member of the GCC, stated that the Select Board did not take a position on this, that the Finance Committee did not support it; but Broadband Committee did support it. The Planning Board is the sponsor of the warrant article that requests \$10,000 to hire a consultant.
- Jeff Lacy arrived after the meeting had begun and addressed the questions/concerns expressed by the Trustees. The GCC got Broadband support, got support from Water Resource and then was running out of time before the Select Board Meeting and the Finance Committee. The proposal and scope was changed to make it a longer process, based on positive support they got saying 6 months was not long enough. Jeff stated that it's not a specific issue for specific committees – they tried to go to the committees where they knew issues would come up. They had a discussion about how to organize the committees with use of consultant, who would initially be needed to help the working group have something meaningful to present to the public.
- Trustees did not know until this meeting that there was any support from other committees; reference was made about the Select Board meeting where Jeff Lacy presented a letter to the Select Board, which he's emailed to them prior to meeting and was handed out to people present at meeting. Jeff was asked specifically who he was representing with this letter. Jeff stated that he wrote it on his own part, not representing any committee.
- Concern was expressed to Jeff that the Trustees did not want there to be any misleading statements; that this process was not coming from the Trustees. Jeff feels that this Visioning Process has bi-partisan support. Trustees want to support a Visioning Process, but want it to be clear that it's not about the library. Originally there was no warrant article, which we are now being asked to support. Trustees do not want to be taking a leadership position on this. Jeff stated that he felt that it de-emphasized the library conflict issue.
- Jeff feels that it has not been presented as a library process. Stands behind his statement.
- Robert feels that there are strong opponents on both sides. He read from Judy Barrett's' (the consultant) letter about other barriers and what the town will do to get through the process.
- Trustees stated that it's the single statement in Jeff's letter that we feel misrepresents both sides of the library issues, that is the main concern. The letter implies that our support for the proposal was represented as unconditional, which it was not; our support was conditional based on support from other committees.
- Question to Jeff, are the Trustees being asked to support the Warrant Article? Jeff wants to know where they're at going into Town Meeting. Jeff would like to have the Trustees support.
- Jeff Lacy doesn't think that the Water Resources or Broadband voted on the warrant article, but voted in support of the scope of the proposal. Question to Jeff about the use of the word "policies" in the letter, which seems more definitive than the visioning/goals/objectives process. Jeff says its state statute that requires the use of the term "policies" in Step 1 of the Visioning Process part of a Master Plan.
- Trustees expressed feeling that this process does not require support from any other committees, but the process is more related to the Planning Board in their Master Plan.
- Jeff - The Visioning Process is part of the Master Plan process. Other committees were not asked to support the warrant article. He's just trying to do their homework with the various committees before Town Meeting.
- Mary Anne - the Visioning Process is a way to work through this process, but it's not the only way. Doesn't feel that we need to stand in the way of this visioning process. We didn't want this to appear

that it was coming from the Library Trustees, there's still a lot of sentiment out there to get support for a future library.

- Robert Raymond reviewed the two primary points he's heard – that Trustees don't want to be seen as taking the lead and he remembers a discussion that the Trustees wanted to find a way to deal with conflict.

Proposal – Kate made a motion for the Trustees to stand aside on the issue of the Warrant Article at this time. All were in favor.

5. Town Meeting Message from the Trustees – Kate shared her Message Box, which is for our town meeting budget request. The Message Box purpose is to recognize that we are one body and that we are giving messages that are consistent. Townspeople do need to know where the Trustees are on this topic. Discussion about the Message and suggested revisions. Robert recommended stating that we directly address that we recognize the dissension surrounding the issue of a new library that has occurred in the past. Kate will make the changes on the Message Box and Mary Anne will send Kate the dollar amounts that have been raised for a future library to date. Kate volunteered to speak at Town meeting; if needed, feels it's important to talk about the Solutions. Mary Anne will share the financial resources we have accrued. Kate will amend the Message Box and send it out to Trustees as a PDF.

Agenda next meeting – Monday, May 18, 2015

1. Update perpetual calendar
2. New sign & paint for building

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Michele Regan-Ladd
Co-Chair, Library Trustees