

## **Minutes**

### **Trustees of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library**

**January 25, 2021**

Attending: Director: Mary Anne Antonellis, Co-Chairs: Michele Regan-Ladd & Kate Cell, Michele Cunningham, Brad Foster, Savanna Ouellette, Melanie DeSilva

Meeting commenced at 7:33. Michele Cunningham read the following COVID-19 disclaimer as recommended by the Town Clerk

"Following the Governor's restrictions on public meetings, this meeting is being held virtually, using Zoom.com for remote participation. The public may access it following the instructions on this meeting's agenda posted on the town calendar here: <https://www.mytowngovernment.org/01072>

Approvals:

Minutes from December approved.

Director's Report from January discussed.

A question arose about the expendable trust. In 1933 William Spear gave library telephone company stock that was converted to cash and is held in a trust for the care and keeping of the library. The principle is now \$78,000. The interest goes into the expendable trust. A little goes to the library budget. The interest - \$672 - is the lowest it has been. Mary Anne will ask the Town Treasurer how the money is invested if there is another way to move this money into an account that gets a higher return, since this is a very low return. Must have at least 4% to spend money and grow the account.

We noted that the amount of money donated from Friends was surprisingly high this year, given the pandemic.

January Director Report approved unanimously.

Annual Report discussed.

We trustees were really quite surprised and impressed regarding the rise in circulation during 2020. We appreciated the clarity and thoroughness with which Mary Anne wrote the Annual Report. It really was important for us to see just how much our community is supported by Mary Anne, and are completely taken by her ability and how much she accomplished during this very difficult time. The Library is truly the heartbeat of our community. But it is truly amazing how much Mary Anne accomplishes as just one person. Her creativity, passion, dedication, and positive attitude go far beyond what is expected and even imagined and is above and beyond the call of duty. We are truly

blessed by her ability to move and shift and not miss a beat even in very difficult times such as these and in an almost impossible situation especially considering the lack of running water and space. We discussed the idea of sharing this story with the community in a more public way.

The state has experienced a 3.4 % increase in revenue. This will be handed down to cities and towns with full funding in 2022 fiscal year budget. Not expecting a reduction in state aid.

Annual report approved unanimously and enthusiastically!

Mary Anne will talk to the Board of Health regarding possibly doing a program for the community around vaccines.

Next Meeting: Monday February Feb. 22, 2021 7:30

Agenda:

Approvals

Library director job description

Report from Town Treasurer re: Expendable Trust.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Michele Cunningham, Secretary

**M.N. Spear Memorial Library  
10 Cooleyville Road  
Shutesbury, MA 01072  
Mary Anne Antonellis, Director  
Director Report: January 25, 2021**

Notes of appreciation

I receive many little notes of appreciation. I am able to provide meaningful service to our community, in part, because of support and encouragement from the Trustees. Here are couple of notes from the past week.

Thank you so much for the kit and books!

I wanted to write and say that the kids are LOVING the books - especially the story of finding Titanosaur in Argentina and Fly Guy is always a big hit (who doesn't love alienzzzzzz?! We're slowly working through all the amazing selections in your bag. They had a blast with the magnets and I suspect we'll go back to the magnets again in the future.

We're so lucky to have such an amazing Librarian!

Such a wonderful array of offerings! Just want you to know that your work is appreciated even by people who rarely participate. Thank you for your creative engagement on behalf of us all.

### Spear Expendable Trust

In FY20, the Trust received \$672 in interest.

### Girl Scouts Silver Award Candidates

Two local girl scouts are working on earning the Silver Award.

” When Girl Scout Cadettes focus on an issue they care about, learn the facts, and take action to make a difference, they gain the confidence and skills that will catapult them to lifelong success. It all adds up to the Girl Scout Silver Award—the highest honor a Cadette can achieve.”

They have asked to apply their efforts to helping the Library. We have met twice and the girls will help with marketing the library to the community and with take home kit production.

### Programming

I'm offering this program in collaboration with seven other local libraries.

Declutter, Simplify, Get Organized!

Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm on Zoom

Partnership with the Council on Aging

The COA has agreed to fund another series of Qigong classes and two more months of strength training on Saturday mornings.

Take-Home kits

I didn't manage to get a kit out in December. For January I created a magnetic maze kit and a family card game kit. For February I am hoping to do a Valentine making kit and a balloon animal making kit.

### Friends of the Library

Giving Tuesday/Year-end fund drive

General donations, \$11,819.03 (includes Pay pal). Split 50/50. = 5,909.52

Donations specified for Friends new library fund, \$2,780.

Total \$ collected from this effort, \$14,599.03

(Last year was about \$9,000, the two years before that - \$8,000).