

Trustees of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library  
May 16, 2022 7:30pm, on Zoom  
Minutes

- Members present: Michele Regan-Ladd, Brad Foster, Tim Logan, Melanie DeSilva, Kate Cell
- Mary Anne Antonellis: Library Director

Mary Anne made an announcement that the meeting is being held via Zoom due to the pandemic.

- The school roof: It will be funded. ARPA funds can be used. We are waiting to hear about a grant the town applied for, and an engineering study needs to be done.
- The May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were approved unanimously. Melanie- yes; Kate- yes; Tim- yes; Brad- yes; Suzanne- yes; Michele- yes.
- Wednesday- Pizza party and reading flash mob at lot 032. This is a way to engage and encourage people to get involved with the small library project. Arrival time is about 5:15pm; pizza and lemonade will be served.
- Who will speak at town meeting?
  - Mary Anne will talk about the building program.
  - Brad will talk about finances
  - Kate will talk about why we need the new library.
- Messaging: A reporter from the Daily Hampshire Gazette contacted the library board of trustees about the environmental conditions of the site; the reporter was provided with accurate, comprehensive information by Mary Anne, Kate, and Michele. A letter to the editor was submitted with claims about the project and the reporter was fact-checking.
- The 3-page flyer will be printed and made them available at town meeting.
- The tax amount to be paid per household will decrease over time. When some people claim their tax payment, for example, will increase by \$100 a year for 20 years, this is not true. After 15 years, it will be about \$60 per year.
- A Trustee posted on Next Door how to find your home's assessed value because that is the number residents should be plugging in and not the market value.
- The differences this time around compared to the last time there was an attempt to build a new library: 1) higher reimbursement rate; 2) large amount of money fundraised; 3) inflation; 4) social media.
- Trustee question: Can we have an auxiliary tent for people who are positive, but want to vote? Answer: Someone who is positive for COVID and within the first five days must quarantine.
- There was a multi-family tag sale at the SAC yesterday and the Friends of the Library was there.
- The Friends are having a café on Saturday at Town Meeting and a tag sale Sunday.
- The Friends are also doing a postcard mailing tomorrow.

- The Trustees have been deliberate and measured in how we have communicated about town meeting. As we get closer to town meeting, rules get stricter. We must continue to follow clear guidelines. Our role is to inform people and provide them with the best, most accurate information.
- Trustees CAN have lawn signs. But we must continue to follow guidelines as to what we say as a member of the body.
- If the library warrant article passes, the override vote will be on June 28<sup>th</sup>. There will be no early voting.
- There will be a whole messaging strategy for the June 28<sup>th</sup> vote.

Next meeting: Tentative – Wednesday, May 18 at 7:30pm; June 6 at 7:30pm

Respectfully submitted by Melanie DeSilva, Secretary, Library Board of Trustees