

Trustees of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library
April 21, 2025 7:30pm, Zoom
Minutes

- Members present: Mel DeSilva, Brad Foster, Elizabeth Murphy, Pam Ososky, Michele Regan-Ladd, Kate Cell
- Mary Anne Antonellis: Library Director

Director's Report

- April 11th Coalition Meeting: Mary Anne attended- Theme: Libraries can be a resource for social cohesion. Mary Anne left with a commitment to make sure Shutesbury residents have opportunities for social cohesion.
- 9 art workshop series nearing end.
- May 6th- Mary Anne has jury duty
- Library Giving Day- \$30,855 raised
- Spring Egg Hunt- 150 people attended (55-60 kids) with 8 volunteers.
- Library construction continues- construction is scheduled to be complete by mid-September and then we'll be open about a month after that.
- Mary Anne working on quotes from shelving vendors and expects to choose vendor by mid-May
- Solar panels are an eligible expense from the MBLC. The Town will be getting a grant from the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program to pay for solar batteries but this expense can't carry on through the next fiscal year so worst-case scenario we have solar but not storage batteries.
- There's \$40k left in a state earmark that will be going towards the library.

Review of library naming policies

- Trustees need to create and adopt an official naming policy for rooms in the library.
- There isn't currently a plan to actively solicit names.
- Maybe things shouldn't be named in perpetuity given that the building could change in the future.
- The rooms should be named generally and not for specific rooms in case we change the function of rooms in the future.
- Kate and Elizabeth finalizing a draft policy for us to review.

Logo Discussion

- We need a new logo for the Shutesbury public library for merchandise
- Elizabeth will continue the work to get design ideas for the logo

Federal cuts

- The Trump administration cut funding for the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS). We assume this money is gone. Some of the funds for the MBLC come from this institute. Because of this, the MBLC immediately has had to make cuts- all professional development cut, prison program cut. IMLS is used to fund the Commonwealth Catalogue which combines all library consortiums and the Boston Public Library. The overdrive collection (Libby)- If you look for something in Libby and they don't have it, the state has a way of looking in all the state Libby accounts in the state which is paid for by the IMLS and Libby collections are paid for by IMLS. It's likely CWMARS will have less money for Libby collections. IMLS funding is also used for databases- huge impact

on schools and colleges. Library Services and Technology Grants have had to be cut as well.

- Federal funding for libraries: If we want to try to have impact we should work with Ritchie Neal's office because he's on the House Ways and Means Committee. It's unlikely we'll have an impact, but we can try. We can also try to reach out to our Senators and McGovern.
- Massachusetts state funding for libraries: It's been level-funded in the next state budget. We need to advocate with our legislators for the library legislative agenda. Any reaching out to legislators should include a thank you to these legislators for fighting so hard.
- Trustees will write a joint letter to legislators. Michele and Kate will draft a letter.

Janice Gray

- Long-time volunteer for the library has passed away.
- Idea- create the Janie Gray Finish Line for the Turkey Trot and get it printed on the finish line ribbon. Elizabeth will talk to the Turkey Trot crew if we can do this.

Next meeting: Monday, May 19 at 7:30pm- hybrid

Respectfully submitted by Melanie (Mel) DeSilva, Secretary, Library Board of Trustees