

Montague Public Libraries Trustees

April Minutes

Date: Monday, April 12, 2021

Time: 5:30pm

Place: Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/94216834063?pwd=S3pSR2FvQ01rQ1JtUFdEaGFuUXhMZz09>

Attendees: Polly Billiel, Nancy Crowell, David Harmon, Lydia Ievins, Karen Latka, Margot Malachowski, Jim Martineau, Tricia Perham, Gretchen Wetherby

Library Director: Linda Hickman

Library Staff: Angela Rovatti-Leonard

Consultant: Greg Walsh

Public: Alice Armen, Tamara Kaplan, Karen Latuchie, Paul Lipke, Emily Monosson, Ariel Shira, Jeff Singleton, Nell Wright

5:32 Call to order.

5:35 Trustees, staff, consultant, and members of the public introduced themselves.

5:38 Montague Center Library Moisture Remediation— Linda reported that the Library has \$22,000 appropriated for moisture remediation. She has a bid out to one company for two projects. Linda shared a quote from Jamrog HVAC for two mini splits that will reduce moisture in the Montague Center Library and reduce heating and cooling costs as well. The drawback would be the lack of back-up heat. Tricia suggested using portable heaters for staff use. Trustees asked clarifying questions about using mini splits for dehumidifying the library. Linda stated that eliminating the costs of running air conditioners and dehumidifiers would balance out the cost of running the mini splits. Trustees asked what would happen to the oil furnace. The ductwork for the furnace is rusted out. Dave raised a concern about the lack of heat in the basement.

Jeff Singleton asked if the Montague Historical Commission (<https://www.montague-ma.gov/g/56/Historical-Commission>) is being kept in the loop about any changes to the Montague Center Library building. Linda said she would be in touch with them to invite them to future meetings.

Jeff asked if these meetings are recorded. Gretchen told us that the meetings are recorded and that he could ask Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz for recordings. Contact information is available here: (<https://www.montague-ma.gov/p/208/Selectboards-Office-Executive-Assistant>)

5:50 Buildings Study— Consultant Greg Walsh (<https://pca360.com/>) walked us through the Buildings Study. Please see documents on the Town Committee page, Library Trustees Files (<https://www.montague-ma.gov/g/66/Library-Trustees>)

Linda, Town Administrator Steve Ellis and the Montague Public Works Department met to discuss the history of the buildings and the building systems. Greg conducted on-site inspections of all three buildings. He shared his findings along with estimated costs of maintenance and repairs. Greg clarified that these are not design or engineering documents, but rather

documents to begin a dialogue with people who are in the buildings and responsible for operating and maintaining the buildings.

Trustees asked questions about what triggers ADA requirements. Massachusetts Architectural Access Board regulations can be found here: (<https://www.mass.gov/aab-rules-and-regulations>) Greg told us that the Montague Center building is in very bad shape. The roof and façade are deteriorating. We are at the point where we could lose the building if proper repairs are not done. The costs of these repairs would trigger the need for greater accessibility for those with disabilities.

Ariel Shira asked questions about the façade and Jeff Singleton urged us to have a public conversation about the Montague Center building.

The Millers Falls building is in pretty good shape with a need for routine maintenance.

The Carnegie building has needs related to the heating and cooling systems and moisture in the basement. The heating and cooling systems are inadequate for the size of the building. Groundwater is problematic for the basement. None of the materials in the basement (carpeting, wood paneling) are appropriate for damp conditions. There are several cracks in the ceiling on the second floor.

Tricia asked questions about how to manage the groundwater to reduce the amount of water in the basement. There is a concern about mold and employee health.

Repairs to the Carnegie building will trigger some ADA improvements, such as an accessible bathroom on the first floor that has hot water.

7:07 Carnegie Basement Floor—Linda shared photos of the newly painted floor. The basement floor was rough. It was obvious that water had seeped into the floor. Deborah Deane (Perfect Strokes, Painting Company from Bernardston, MA) scraped and cleaned half of the floor before applying three coats of paint. The floor is much better—clean and dry. The paint needs to cure for one week, and then the second half of the floor will be done. The bathroom floor is painted as well.

Linda is working on the first floor at this time.

7:14 Millers Falls Energy Grant—Linda shared energy grant documents. Please see documents on the Town Committee page, Library Trustees Files (<https://www.montague-ma.gov/g/66/Library-Trustees>). The grant would cover two mini splits, a small hot water heater, and a replacement of the storefront glass. We need to upgrade the electrical system. Town Planner Walter Ramsey is applying for this grant to improve the library building. Linda will keep us posted.

7:18 Montague Center is open for appointments—the Montague Center branch is open for appointments on Wednesdays. Dave informed us that Montague is in the yellow for COVID-19 infections and suggested that Linda talk with the Emergency Management Team. Trustees agreed that Linda, in consultation with the Emergency Management team, could decide whether or not to open for appointments.

7:31 Items Not Anticipated—Dave recommended having public conversations about the library buildings in the context of all town buildings. Trustees agreed that we need to have more conversations, especially about the Montague Center building.

7:32 Upcoming Meetings:

Monthly Trustees Meeting
Mon, Apr 26, 2021 at 6:30pm

7:33 Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Margot Malachowski
Corresponding Secretary
Montague Public Libraries Trustees