

Montague Public Libraries Trustees

September Minutes

Date: Thursday, Sep 16, 2021

Time: 6:30pm

Place: Gill-Montague Council on Aging, 62 Fifth St. Turners Falls, MA 01376

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

Town Administrator: Steve Ellis

Library Staff: Angela Rovatti-Leonard

Library Friends: Vicki Valley

Absent: Liz Swihart

Arrived 6:49: Tim Zessin, Counsel on Municipal Labor

6:30 Call to order.

6:31 Trustees received the Search Committee's recommendation for hiring Caitlin Kelley as the new Library Director. Search Committee members shared their reasons for selecting Ms. Kelley, including her current work experience as an Assistant Director in Vernon, CT and her extensive community work during her tenure with Springfield City Libraries. The Search Committee was impressed by her research into the current situation of our library buildings, her understanding of patron-staff interactions, and her passion for the role of libraries in the community.

6:32 The Trustees deliberated the Search Committee's recommendation. Several members shared their positive impressions of Caitlin Kelley's resume, cover letter and second interview.

6:42 Dave Harmon moved to accept the Search Committee's recommendation to appoint Caitlin Kelley, pending successful negotiations of contract terms and a clean CORI check. Karen Latka seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6:49 Called into Executive Session:

- Polly Billiel
- Nancy Crowell
- David Harmon
- Lydia Ievins
- Karen Latka
- Margot Malachowski
- Tricia Perham
- Gretchen Wetherby
- Steve Ellis
- Tim Zessin

Executive session in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(2), to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel and to conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel (Library Director).

We will not re-convene after Executive Session.

Trustees, Town Administrator and Labor Counsel discussed salary range and vacation, differences between at-will and contract employment, and if Trustees will participate in the negotiations.

7:33 Trustees moved to authorize the Town Administrator to enter negotiations and commit the Trustees to a Library Director contract agreement within parameters as established by the Trustees. The motion carried unanimously.

- Polly Billiel—yes
- Nancy Crowell—yes
- David Harmon—yes
- Lydia Ievins—yes
- Karen Latka—yes
- Margot Malachowski—yes
- Tricia Perham—yes
- Gretchen Wetherby—yes

7:38 Upcoming Meeting: TBD

7:39 Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Margot Malachowski
Corresponding Secretary
Montague Public Libraries Trustees