

# Montague Public Libraries Trustees

## April Minutes

Date: Monday, Apr 25, 2022

Time: 6:30pm

Place: Council on Aging, 62 5th St., Turners Falls, MA, 01376

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

Library Director: Caitlin Kelley

Library Staff: Angela Rovatti-Leonard

Absent: Gretchen Wetherby

6:41 Call to order.

6:44 Minutes from 3/28/2022 and Personnel Subcommittee minutes approved as amended.

6:46 Director's Update. The Carnegie Library finally has hot water. JAMROG won the bid for the HVAC project (install two mini-splits) at the Montague Center branch. The funds were approved in 2019 at a Special Town Meeting. There are exterior outlets at the Carnegie that do not work. Caitlin will look into the installation of a new electrical outlet to facilitate outdoor programming, as well as a spigot for watering plants.

Caitlin just received the last batch of surveys from Montague Catholic Social Ministries. Michelle Eberle held a focus group with nine participants. She and Caitlin are scheduled to meet to review the findings.

There are four candidates for the substitute pool. Caitlin hopes to hire 2 substitutes.

Montague Center residents are hosting a potluck on Mon, May 2 at 6:00pm. Trustees are encouraged to attend. The rain date is Mon, May 9<sup>th</sup>.

The Carnegie Seed Starting program was cancelled due to low registration. On Wed, May 4<sup>th</sup> the Carnegie will host an in-person event "Lessons from the Trail" with a hiker/photographer from Millers Falls. On May 18<sup>th</sup>, there will be a drop-in program on tick bite prevention. MOSAIC, a documentary on health equity, will be shown at the Shea Theater on Wed, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. A community discussion follows. Caitlin and Margot will talk about the role of libraries in health information. On May 24<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Zoom program on burnout and self-care.

7:11 Children's Librarian Update. The Grab-and-Go STEAM project was "Build a Boat Challenge" and a fish tessellation project. The Take-and-Make was rain sticks and sun mobiles. The libraries distributed 96 bags for school vacation week. The Paws-to-Read is welcoming a new therapy dog in May. The Story Stroll and Spanish Conversation session was very popular, with the group wanting to stay longer than the scheduled time. The Youth Advisory Committee was very creative with holding a Stuffed Animal Sleepover for younger children. A slideshow of stuffed animal antics was available on Facebook.

- 7:22 Special Services. Subcommittee met to discuss the survey, focus groups, and interviews.
- 7:25 Building and Maintenance. Work continues with the engineer to address handicap access parking at the Carnegie Library, as well as drainage plans and snow removal.
- 7:26 Personnel. The Personnel Subcommittee met to discuss the Director's mid-year evaluation. We are still working on the Director's goals.
- 7:30 Friends. The Friends of the Library will hold a book sale on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. The Friends will order loam and compost and hold a garden workday. They are identifying ADA compliant tables and garden seating.
- 7:40 Not Anticipated. This was Karen Latka's last Trustees meeting. Karen has served the town as a Trustee for 30 years. Liz Swihart submitted a letter of resignation. Margot will contact Town Clerk Deb Bourbeau to ask if write-in candidates can be considered for Liz's seat.
- 7:51 Upcoming meetings:
- Monthly Trustees Meeting  
Mon, May 23, 2022, at 6:30pm
- 7:52 Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Margot Malachowski  
Corresponding Secretary,  
Montague Public Libraries Trustees