

When: 6:30p, Monday, February 20, 2023 / Where: Zoom

Attendees: David Harmon, Gretchen Wetherby, Lydia Ievins, Margot Malachowski, Nancy Crowell, Polly Billiel, Tricia Perham, Will Quale / Library Director: Caitlin Kelley / Public: Ariel Elan, Rhys Lentz

6:32 Call to order

6:36 Minutes from 1/23/23 approved

Director's Report and program stats

- Trees — Dave concerned that 3 trees now marked for removal. Could look to public like our request? He will contact tree committee; this should require a public hearing.

6:41 Special Services — Margot + Caitlin meeting with Jean tomorrow night, per Caitlin's report

Building and Maintenance

- Alarms — Police chief advised going with alarms as quoted at previous meeting. Staff would use them to call the police without the threatening party noticing. No objections to using state aid funds.

6:44 Personnel — nothing to report

Budget — Caitlin will be at Special Town Meeting 3/2, not anticipating issues with our request to reallocate

Secretary's report — nothing to report

6:45 Friends

- Food pantry — Visit from someone at food bank, a lot involved. Caitlin/staff doing all the legwork, Friends providing 501c3, will need volunteers. Discussion of pickup in Chicopee 2x/month, possible teaming up with Northfield or others to share pickup duties.

6:51 Discussion, prospective new Trustees — Rhys interested in helping with programs, will meet with Caitlin.

6:54 Discussion, review of MC forum

- 60+ people in the room, hybrid zoom format was good, people expressed wide range of thoughts and ideas. Also good that 2 selectboard members were there to hear how important the building is to the community.
- 2nd floor: Walter didn't really spell out that it would not be (primarily) a lib programming space. Who *would* administer it? Not Parks & Rec either? We just don't know yet.
- Caitlin: Our priority is still windows and roof. Excited for what happens after that, but it's pretty far off. People might have left meeting feel like the library is going to get an elevator. If we can get windows in next couple years, I'll be ecstatic. Tricia: hitting spending threshold would trigger compliance requirements, may need to do piecemeal. Dave: there's an exception for roofs. Threshold = 30% of assessed bldg value over 3 years. *[addendum: From architect's report p31, "The thirty percent (30%) limit on exempt work would be \$220,530 (\$735,100 x .30)."]*
- Nonfunctional downstairs bathroom at side entrance: Caitlin emailing Walter, should be fixed but not at library's expense. Or the basketball players could do a little fundraising and replace sink/toilet?
- Next steps a little unclear. Town feasibility study? Caitlin will send out summary, solicit comments.

7:25 Discussion, first steps for public lib grant program

- Tricia, Caitlin, & Will attended online intro. Caitlin will start by putting together stmt of public interest. 54 towns had attended info sessions, only 10 projects accepted from each group size.

Montague Public Libraries Trustees

February Minutes

- Caitlin: hopeful, felt like a lot of people seemed very overwhelmed; we are well positioned, funds already allocated, already talking about hiring consultant and creating town-wide lib plan, which are next steps. Already identified 2 possible new sites.
- Multistep process with deadlines we can't miss. We haven't actually voted on whether to pursue. Need to make sure we are prepared to meet those timelines. Some restrictions on what we as trustees can do in order to promote: can advocate but not fundraise? Caitlin will clarify.
- First request is for \$150k, then another request round later. First step is letter of interest/intent.
- Other libraries have a lib construction committee, consisting of some trustees plus other stakeholders, lib users, lib friends. We should do this once we agree this is an avenue we're going to pursue. Open to CIC, selectboard, community. Could start by having consultant come in to do community forum: what people are looking for in their lib, regardless of what already exists, as if there is no library. Highway dept put together a similar committee for their building project. Good to have people who have been through a similar process.
- Building cmte will meet to look at timeline, what level of involvement is required/desirable at each step, present to board at next meeting. Caitlin will send out link to construction grant site. We can vote at next board meeting.

7:43 Items not anticipated

- Tricia: Caitlin's involvement in new version of harvest festival? Meeting 1-2x/mo, contribute to family activities, good way to meet more local biz owners for future collaboration.

7:46 Upcoming meetings:

- Full Board — Mon 3/20, 6:30p, Zoom (might be last time we can meet by Zoom)

7:48 Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

lydia ievins ∴ Corresponding Secretary ∴ Montague Public Libraries Trustees