

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

Attendees: David Harmon, Gretchen Wetherby, Lydia Ievins, Nancy Crowell, Polly Billiel, Tricia Perham, Will Quale / Library Director: Caitlin Kelley / Public: Jim Cosgrove, Jeff Singleton / Absent: Margot Malachowski

6:31 Call to order

6:33 Minutes from 2/20/23 approved

Director's Report and program stats

- Report on tree hearing — Tree Warden agreed to allow Tree Cmte to call in another consult before just chopping down. Even getting a hearing was a milestone. Our tent will be going up in mid-May.
- Program stats for forum — total ~90 participants, including 30 online.
- Computer replacement costs — using State Aid for the one immediately needed, in future will add line item to budget for equipment replacement.

6:47 Special Services — nothing to report

Building and Maintenance — primary topic is later on agenda, statement of support for grant application.

Subcommittee wanted to step back and get a full formal statement from the Trustees, to direct the process around what we can/should do to improve our library facilities. Capital projects still in a holding pattern of readiness. Vocal public sentiments range from "Why are we throwing away our old buildings?" to long-term local mortified to hear that we're even trying to use the Carnegie, because despite how beautiful it is, she can't even get into it. It's the town's old building; we're not doing anything to it, we're just saying it doesn't meet the needs of the library. Failed expansion effort in 1999–2001 nixed partly because of bedrock: prohibitively expensive to expand there, can't blast right next to a masonry building.

6:53 Personnel — met today, working on process for evaluating staff

Budget — nothing to report

Secretary's report — nothing to report

Friends — Food pantry approved. No book sale this month because storm. Still talking about bench, indoor furniture. Going to purchase museum passes for MassMOCA and Eric Carle.

6:55 Welcome to prospective new Trustees — Jim introduced himself. (Pam unable to attend.)

7:06 Review and vote on Building subcmte proposal:

The full Board supports moving forward with the construction grant process. Discussion of wording, revised as follows. Motion carried unanimously to issue this statement of support. Will offered to write public statement for the newspaper, including info about process.

In light of community input, the ~~Building Subcommittee of the~~ Board of Trustees of the Montague Public Libraries recognize that Carnegie Library is not adequately meeting the needs of the public, and we support moving forward with the Mass BLC Mass PLCP process to explore how we can better meet these needs, either through renovation, addition, or new construction.

Letter of intent is due next month. Caitlin writes 600 words, signed by Walter/Steve, signed by Building cmte.

Consultant for developing the Library Building Program will be a library director with previous construction experience. Greenfield librarian meeting next week with Caitlin, later with Building cmte. We're hoping to hold public forums in summer. Steering committee might start meeting in fall to review that input, so helpful to start putting together that group in the next couple of months.

7:26 Montague Center copier:

- Vote whether to allocate \$1,095 of State Aid funds to replace copier. Motion carried unanimously.

7:27 Items not anticipated within 48 hours of meeting:

- Jeff interested in public records about expansion/renovation plan from 1999–2005. Caitlin has multiple copies of that binder, will leave one for him at circulation desk. Caitlin meeting this week with Will and Lydia to pull relevant docs, work on plan to digitize and make available to public.

7:30 Upcoming meetings:

- Full Board — Mon 4/24, 6:30p, Zoom
- Building — Wed 4/5, 4p, Montague Center

7:35 Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,

Lydia Ievins :.. Corresponding Secretary :.. Montague Public Libraries Trustees