

When: 6:00p, Monday, May 20, 2024 / Where: Montague Center Library (outdoors at picnic table)

Attendees: Gretchen Wetherby, Louisa Khettab, Lydia Ievins, Margot Malachowski, Miryam Vesset, Nancy Crowell, Tricia Perham, Will Quale / Library Director: Caitlin Kelley

6:10 Call to order

Minutes from 4/22/24 approved

6:15 Director's report

- Carnegie a/c: DPW is taking on the project. They'll repair rather than replace; not time to put out to bid.

6:35 Strategic Planning — nothing to report

Branding — quick half-hour meeting, Liz shared two vision boards, next meeting scheduled 5/29.

6:38 Building

- Building Plan doc later in agenda, round of applause for Caitlin.
- CK: everything now in the application platform, ready to hit Submit.
- TP: glad we hired Barbara, worth the expenditure. CK: she billed us less than the total allotment.
- WQ: read an excerpt from the town's 200th anniversary book (1954) re: Carnegie lib, including: *"the building was not erected until there had been the customary argumentation and debate that is part of every building program."*

6:44 Personnel

- Met, talked about process of employee annual reviews. Staff fairly intimidated/anxious about them. Looking at how to make process less stressful for them.

6:54 Budget — nothing to report

Secretary — nothing to report

6:55 Friends

- We now have \$19k; made \$212 in May book sale.
- Talked about supporting adult programming, have usually focused on children's.
- Membership? NC: Kristofer is chair, got us Square reader for book sales. Star, always doing something. Dempseys. Vicki and Nancy. 3-4 other people who sometimes come.

6:57 Discussion: Review and approve Library Building Program for submission to MPLCP

- We are at the lowest end of "medium" size, 15k sq ft and we're asking for 17k. We're not competing against Orange, who's not applying after all. Also applying: Easthampton, a Springfield branch (small). 27 applicants counting all three lib sizes; not many our size. Arlington (large), Carlisle (maybe around our size? maybe smaller?). Some libs just adding a children's room.
- TP: surprised the three costs came out so close. CK: b/c doesn't take into consideration what it would cost to do asbestos abatement, blast into ledge.
- WQ: does Carnegie-expansion cost option include purchasing green house? Yes. Zillow estimated \$261k. Not interested in the eminent-domain path if they don't want to sell. CK: wouldn't reach out to them until we are funded.

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May Minutes

- WQ: how many \$million is nostalgia worth? MV: new owners of Carnegie space would remove the nostalgia idea and reinstate Carnegie as museum, concert space, whatever. WQ: my dream is to make it the historical/Nolumbeka bldg. NC: not realistic unless there's \$\$.
- NC: town very sensitive about bldgs remaining unoccupied. TP: could make 2, maybe 3 really nice condos. what about the folks who redid the Montague Center school? MV: remember going to some of those mtgs (for MC school), my main concern was traffic—and now i barely see anyone.
- Doc unanimously approved for submission!
- Town meeting vote needs 2/3 approval, public referendum needs 1/2. Would be spring of 2026, maybe?
- Next step: RFP for architects, choose an architect. CK: we reach out to folks we think are cool, ask them to apply. TP: believe it's correct that we don't need to choose lowest bidder. the contractor will be low-bid. CK: need them to be amenable to matching character of downtown TF. MV: wouldn't be called Carnegie Lib anymore. LI: Great Falls lib.

7:11 Review/approve quote for 3 lib computers — don't need to approve b/c coming out of operating budget.

7:13 Items not anticipated —

- Submitting festival grant under Friends.

7:27 Upcoming meetings:

- Branding — 5/29, 4p, Zoom
- Full Board — 6/17, 6p, Montague Center

7:29 Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,

lydia ievins ∴ Secretary ∴ Montague Public Libraries Trustees