

When: 6:00p, Tuesday, March 25, 2025 / Where: Senior Center

Attendees: Gretchen Wetherby, Lydia Ievins, Miryam Vesset, Nancy Crowell, Pam Allan, Tricia Perham, Will Quale / Library Director: Caitlin Kelley / Public: Melissa Belmonte, Tamara Kaplan / Absent: Jim Martineau, Margot Malachowski

6:02 Call to order

Public comments — nope. (Welcoming two visitors as prospective Trustees.)

Minutes from 1/27/25 and 2/24/25 approved

6:07 Director's report —

- Hiring Libby for communications — CK: the only person I know of specializing in this work for libraries.
- OPM — 4 people came to walkthrough; we've rec'd 2 submissions so far. (due tomorrow 10a.)
- Mass Historical Commission — moving the Carnegie is totally off the table? yes.
- MF circ desk — Sam just hasn't built the desk yet. Clearly he feels bad, has offered to make us another desk for the MC branch. So far we've given him a \$4k deposit. He has a great reputation, does beautiful work. CK will send TP his phone number.
- MF pod — is en route! will arrive this week. Fully funded by NLM grant.
- Food pantry — submitted grant to United Way, \$50k/yr for 3 yrs. (co-wrote w Brick House, Heartwings.)
- Patron issue — she was much nicer the next time she came in. Possible challenge with lip-reading.

6:43 Strategic Planning — accessibility grant docs finished, ADA upgrades plan will hopefully pass town mtg.

6:44 Building — has not met, nothing on the books.

6:45 LBSC —

- Working on getting together prelim info for architect/designer RFQ, will then need input from OPM.
- If we don't have an OPM contract by 4/9, will have to wait 2 weeks for next Selectboard meeting.
- Timeline — submit design to state in Dec, they say OK and how much they'll give us. Then to town mtg, ask them for a ballot measure to meet the rest of the project expense. Then completely separate ballot measure for public to vote on whether to move the project forward. Shouldn't have to raise taxes much, if at all, since Public Safety Complex and High School coming off the books in the next few years.
- OPM candidates — proposals due tomorrow (Wed) 10a, we will review Thurs evening. Just need to decide whether worth interviewing. If only 2–3, we'll interview all; if 4, might weed out one. If they have everything we requested, including refs, probably worth interviewing.

6:54 Personnel — nope

6:54 Budget — nope

6:54 Secretary — nope

6:55 Friends —

- We have a new logo! moose from the bags, but happier. with books.
- Will be coming out with a new brochure shortly.
- Increased cost of paperbacks from \$0.25 to \$0.50.

6:57 Discussion: Library building timeline [discussed above]

Montague Public Libraries Trustees

March Minutes

- Build vs expand — TP and her boss at RenBuild looked at some numbers. 16k-something sqft of new construction vs 7k-ish of existing bldg plus 9k-ish of extension. Cost diff of \$2m does not include anything about the green bldg next door (purchase, demo, asbestos remediation) or engineering to make the 2nd floor usable (load-bearing). Add'l costs: solar, site development of existing space if we had to demolish or deal with ledge, renovations to existing bldg. Minimum 10–15% more for the expansion route. Important for us to know how the public feels about that.
- Hopefully we can make that decision sooner than later, maybe June? Hoping not to need to draw designs for both directions. Start with survey, then prelim talks w OPM + architect. If we find it's going to be 10–15% more and majority of people say that's a non-starter, then no need to make a design for it.

7:11 Discussion: Building survey

- CK will put together a short 5-question survey for our next mtg. Do people support the project? What's their preference? Willing to change it if they understand the cost? Taking copies to town meeting in May, mark with "M", also put out survey to general public (print + online).

7:21 Discussion: Privacy policy

- Added language about Assabet. Policy passed unanimously.

7:23 Discussion: Dog policy

- "Well-behaved, house-trained". Policy as amended passed unanimously.

7:24 Discussion: Study room policy

- Policy approved unanimously w minor copyedits.

7:27 Discussion: Bylaws change

- Proposal is that we remove the term limit (Article VII section 3), assuming that when we review again in 5 yrs, we can put it back in. Procedure = we read at 3 consecutive meetings (this is #3), then need 2/3 vote.
- ARTICLE VII — Election of Officers
~~3. The Chair shall serve no more than two consecutive years. Vice Chair and Secretary shall serve no more than three consecutive years in the same office.~~
- Amendment passed unanimously

7:29 Items not anticipated —

- Ann Moore + historical materials: no need for vote, she's a lib employee doing lib work at her regular rate.

7:32 Upcoming meetings:

- Full Board — Mon, 4/28/25, 5:30p at Senior Center

7:35 Adjourn

Documents reviewed: Director's report, Youth services highlights, Privacy policy draft, Dog policy draft, Study room policy draft, Historical docs proposal

Respectfully submitted,
lydia ievins ∴ Secretary ∴ Montague Public Libraries Trustees