

When: 6:30p, Monday, January 26, 2026 / Where: Zoom

Attendees: Gretchen Wetherby, Lydia Ievins, Miryam Vesset, Pam Allan, Tamara Kaplan, Tricia Perham, Will Quale  
Library Director: Caitlin Kelley / Absent: Jim Martineau

6:34 Call to order

Public comments — nope

Minutes from 12/2/25 approved

6:35 Discussion: Carnegie Corp gift — \$10k, no strings attached, though nice if it commemorates Carnegie gift, and also nice if portable to a new bldg. Display case of historical artifacts, either in entryway or local history room? Maybe also a plaque at the Carnegie? Wait until we have vote and green light for new bldg?

6:49 Director's report —

- New Community Relations Coordinator — Lachlan Thompson, 5+ yrs exper with multiple nonprofits and freelance. We had 33 applicants for this 13 hr/wk position (prev round 26 applicants).
- Freezing pipe in basement — feeds sinks upstairs, sink downstairs. CK: it did have some insulation, but wasn't sufficient. TP: heat tape you plug in, better than having to thaw it out the whole time. CK: Jim created a panel with a vent in it, someone had shut the vent. In theory if the vent's open, should be warm air getting into that space. On the rare really cold nights I just leave the whole panel open.

7:01 LBSC —

- Working group — met right after we got comments back from state. One of reviewers wanted us to add windows; Angela has added 4' high shelves with windows above them.
- Timeline — MBLC assumes a year for full drawings, and Angela doesn't think it'll take that long, maybe 10 months, maybe a bit better position for getting specs out to bid, not trying to pour concrete in December. From breaking ground to completion, probably about 14–16 months.

7:05 Community Outreach — will meet soon, after our mtg w Libby.

- Looking for a local photographer — 8–12 portraits of lib users, community stakeholders, turn into a poster. Fave Carnegie Lib memory, or why they love libraries.
- Photo equipment donation box — already tried at Montague Center, wasn't working. Kate got an anonymous letter of complaint, want lib entrance to be less trashy looking. People had donated cameras, someone had just taken them. Decided to just let them take box to another org.

7:12 Strategic Planning — FY27 action plan has been approved.

7:12 Building — radon mitigation. TP putting together bid spec in Feb for MF facade, project for spring.

7:13 Personnel — just got update re: Lachlan.

7:13 Budget — in a holding pattern until this week's FinCom mtg.

7:17 Secretary —

- Registered yeslibrary.org domain. No progress yet on branding tweaks.
- Fill our empty seat? Susan not officially resigned, hasn't sent official letter. WQ: if we put ads in the paper, wouldn't be fielding candidates until nomination-paper season.
- Terms ending 2026: LI, JM, MV.

7:25 Friends — approved hiring Libby, will do a GOTV campaign by mail. Also agreed to pay for the VAN database of lefty voters. Worked out usage numbers for museum passes, all doing pretty well.

7:29 Discussion: book sale accessibility request

- No real way to make the Carnegie accessible. Reasonable accommodation = every lib has book sale shelf (in MF and MC, a book truck), the Friends routinely swap stuff out at the Carnegie. This seemed fine for two years. Then in late 2024, Betty reached out to CK and Walter again. She said in summertime the book sale should be at the farmers market, or under the tent. We just can't have elderly volunteers carrying boxes of books up and down stairs every month. She's sent 3 more emails since then. One time she said our basement was a fire hazard, the fire dept did come and inspect, we moved 1 table. By standards of DPW and fire dept, we're doing everything we can. CK: Betty participated in our accessibility grant; she's an amazing advocate. MV: we're agreeing with her. If a new lib is not approved, then we can have a discussion about what else can be done.

7:37 Discussion: policy for book sales at local author events

- Draft — *The Montague Public Libraries allows authors who facilitate library programs on their books to sell copies of said book at the end of their program, provided they are not coercive in their sales pitch. Authors may sell books but no other materials.*
- Voted unanimously to enact policy as written, with amendment that it could also include other works by the speaker.

7:43 Items not anticipated —

- Special elections — the town has a lot of elections coming up this year, potentially 6. May annual town offices, Sept primary, Nov midterms, us, Tech School debt exclusion, maybe 6 towns trying to regionalize school district. Each of 3 groups has different timing constraints. New wrinkle: our vote tabulation machines have flash drives, and they can't be touched for 45 days after an election. Solution: authorize purchase of another set of flash drives (6–7 @\$120), then invite the Tech School to reimburse half and share those new drives. WQ: propose that we authorize spending up to \$900, plus authorize WQ to talk w town and school superintendent. CK: according to state law, Selectboard is the ultimate decider about whether we can have a special election. CK: fund from donations, not taxpayer dollars.
- Motion passed unanimously: approve \$900 for WQ to purchase flash drives, approach Town Clerk (double-check specs and iron out logistics) + Tech School superintendent for cost sharing.

7:56 Upcoming meetings:

- Full Board — Mon, 2/23/26, 6:30p on Zoom

8:00 Adjourned

Documents reviewed: Director's report, Youth services highlights

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