

When: 6:30p, Monday, February 23, 2026 / Where: Zoom

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

6: Call to order

Public comments — Ariel : meeting is uplifting

6: Director's report —

- Radon mitigation cost less than estimated. Tricia suggests scoping down roof drain & photograph floor in “tomb” area in case cracks develop, if find any, mark and date them to observe if they grow. Caitlin said existing cracks in floor were filled in.
- Monday March 16, 4 pm at Dream House, local business owners will be invited for overview of library project, benefits to local organizations, Caitlin, Lisa and Will to present. Share costs, discuss benefits to economic development. Will and Caitlin talked to Nancy Maynard in Greenfield. There was low response from local businesses to support their library in Greenfield. Tricia suggested to consider how to appeal to businesses in all 5 villages.
- Mini-split issue in Montague Center branch – what happened? Caitlin isn’t really sure, but problem was fixed. Mini-splits are not sole source of heat. Oil used. Will asked, tangentially, what is electricity bill like? \$700. New building will have solar panels!

6: LBSC — Estimate was accepted. Total \$23,704,053. Town: \$12,417,613. State \$11,286,440.

- Tricia: comfortable with contingency amounts. Contingency for design is in place to accommodate details that haven’t been worked out. We have more control over construction contingency. FFE. Solar panels included. Generator “ready” – easier to add later.
- Discussion followed re: how to present costs to public. Cup of coffee/week? Caitlin will send ROI (return on investment) calculator and info graphic as it was compelling. Caitlin will put together talking points for trustees.
- Will: conversation with State Ethics Commission re: Conflict of Interest laws – We CAN say, “I as a trustee, urge you to vote yes.”

7. Community Outreach — Not met

8: Strategic Planning — Not met. Caitlin said issue will become, what to do with old building committee. Seek advice from David Brule and Nolembeka re: collections.

9: Building —

10: Personnel —

11: Budget — Not met. Moving forward with 2% cut. Select board and finance committee support a tent lease from other pot of money. Caitlin watching fuel costs because this winter has been so cold.

12: Secretary — Lydia sent photo from Tasmania, “Montague Fresh”

13: Friends — voted to support purchase of van, GOTV mailer, took donations at book sale for food pantry, buying condiments and other items to fill gaps.

14: Discussion: Upcoming elections: Miriam, Lydia, Jim are up for re-election. Also a 2 year seat is open. Question as to whether a staff member can run to be a trustee.

15: Items not anticipated —

- Discussion about getting word out about absentee/early voting possibility for June election.
- Data cards for electronic voting machines can't be used again in June. Will need another set of cards, cost could be \$900–1100, Town clerk and Walter is best not to talk to Tech about splitting cost, should vote to amend appropriation for up to \$1200.
- Gretchen – move to amend appropriation, Tricia second. Motion carries unanimously.
- Tamara brought up heavy topics of teen wellness kits. Discussion about including positive things like music, healthy recipes, yoga. Others suggested meditation/spirituality.

7: Upcoming meetings:

- Full Board — Mon, 3/23/26, 6:30p, Zoom

8: Adjourned

Documents reviewed: Director's report, Youth services highlights

Respectfully submitted,

Tamara Kaplan ∴ Montague Public Libraries Trustees