

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

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

6:38 Call to order

6:40 Director's report → mostly discussion of public meeting last week

- **Overall** — TP: great job with presentation, video, clear assessment of problems. A couple things we need to be a bit more prepared for in future. TK: meeting less successful for Zoom attendees.
- **Cost of branches** — CK: new info = branches cost very little to operate (\$59k/yr, for avg taxpayer \$12/yr).
- **Publicity** — TK: other places to publicize? CK: Lachlan found a vibrant Montague discussion community on Reddit. We got 60 more newsletter subs, some people on Insta. WQ: the "haven't heard of this project" guy reads the Springfield Republican and doesn't use the internet. List of upcoming outreach events.
- **Town Meeting** — WQ: people saying "branches have to go" are TM members; reaching out to them for one-on-one. CK: CNZ is working on numbers for operating costs of new bldg. Traditionally haven't been allowed to put info in mtg packet; will investigate.
- **Libby** — PA: where are we at with Libby? CK: she's been very helpful, has made some great suggestions. Getting big banner for front lawn. Have talked about strategy for responding to people's questions.
- **Carnegie bldg** — TP: what's going to happen to the bldg = it's up to the town.
- **Square footage** — LI: how did the state come up with the square footage? CK: figured out how much we needed to increase our collections to meet community need, which determined amt of shelving and # chairs. TP: usable space of the branches? WQ: MC is 2850 sq ft (larger than ground floor of Carnegie), MF is 1880 sq ft (close to Carnegie).
- **Target population** — TK: certain % of people will always support a lib project, another group who will never support use of tax increases ever, another group who are swayable in either direction — those will make or break it. We just need to make sure they have all the info they need.
- **Timing** — yes, economic times better 5 years ago. But not going to get this grant again in this generation. Also, this site will not be available. WQ: narrow band of voters in the middle makes/breaks, + turnout.
- **Taxpayer support** — CK: Friends are collecting signatures. "Taxpayer" will matter to some people, but what will matter more is a list of their neighbors/friends. WQ: love to do similarly w business owners. CK: will draft something, run it by Lisa. Adam working on poster for their windows. Lawn signs eventually.
- **Newspapers** — would the Reporter/Recorder publish something? WQ: worth it even if we have to pay for an ad. TP: also the Springfield Republican.

7:51 Friends — CK didn't attend mtg

Discussion: photo release policy — tabled

Upcoming meetings:

- Full Board — Mon, 4/27/26, 6p on Zoom [and then next one in-person]

7:54 Adjourned

Documents reviewed: Director's report

Respectfully submitted,  
Lydia Ievins :: Secretary :: Montague Public Libraries Trustees