

When: 6:00p, Monday, April 27, 2026 / Where: Zoom

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

6:03 Call to order

Public comments — nope.

Minutes from 1/26/26, 2/22/26, 3/23/26 approved

6:05 Director's report —

- Lachlan doing such a great job that someone recently accused us of using AI.
- TK: was out of town when the MR article came out with Betty-questions and our responses in the same paper, really impressed. CK: starting to see a lot of repeat questions now, prepares us for TM.
- TP: really useful Pct 1 mtg, helpful in how to frame responses. Liked Matt Lord's advice to emphasize the investment. WQ: "libraries are economic development" argument, lowers cost by increasing tax base. Also talk about immediate return, things the new bldg can provide us, services and materials, \$ value of those things. Borrow a stand mixer, take a free class. CK: at TM will be painting this picture of the bldg as providing things that people need.
- How many people use the lib? CWMARS data says 2441 people identify as Carnegie lib users and have used card in past 3 years. It's wherever you receive books, not necessarily where your barcode is. That's about half of the Carnegie's population of TF + Montague City. WQ: # of people who have Greenfield listed as their home lib also = about half the population of Greenfield. CK: 691 Montague Center card carriers.
- CK: this wkend we had bunnies in the childrens room, 60 attendees, people had to wait their turn to go in and pat bunnies. During that time, nobody could check out childrens materials, bc the room was full.
- PA: my husband Tim (sculptor Tim de Christopher) has a major piece he's almost finished, wants to gift it to the new library. Would look nice on Ave A, where we decided not to put the entrance. Is maybe 5' wide, 2' deep. Limestone, allegorical piece, reference to our factory history. CK: having a piece either in or at the lib would be wonderful.

6:38 LBSC — nope

Community Outreach — nope

Strategic Planning — nope

Building — nope

Personnel — nope

Budget — nope

Secretary —nope

Friends — CK: raised over \$300 at trivia fundraiser. CK put Kristopher in touch with the signmaker.

6:40 Advocacy + TM prep

- WQ: tabling on 1st Fri before TM, 5–7p. Other side of intersection this time, in front of Waterway. CK: businesses have been really supportive. WQ: a lot of our biz owners are not Montague residents.
- CK: advocates for lib have been contacting TM members, people coming out of the woodwork. Biggest problem now is that people see this as being unaffordable along with other tax hikes, recent and

Montague Public Libraries Trustees

Minutes 2026-04-27

anticipated. TP: if it weren't for that, I don't think this would be an issue. CK: wish we could talk about the tech school more as the hypothetical tech school. WQ: Greenfield mayor's chief of staff has said there's no way the tech school is passing in Greenfield. TP: it needs 50% of the total vote. Important to not make it an either/or. CK: unanimously approved by FinCom + CIC + Selectboard, + EDIC land transfer.

- CK: Walter and Angelica will be there with financial data. Adam will be there to talk about how much things really cost. WQ: Adam really helped with this at Brick House.

7:02 Upcoming meetings:

- Full Board — Tue, 5/26/26, 6p in person (maybe outside Montague Center lib?)

7:06 Adjourned

Documents reviewed: Director's report, Youth services report

Respectfully submitted,

lydia ievins ∴ Secretary ∴ Montague Public Libraries Trustees