

**Minutes**  
**Trustees of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library**  
**May 10, 2021**

**Attendance:** Director: Mary Anne Antonellis, Co-Chairs: Michele Regan-Ladd & Kate Cell, Brad Foster, Savanna Ouellette, Melanie DeSilva, Guest: Tim Logan. Absent – Michele Cunningham.

**Meeting Convened** at 7:30 p.m. Mary Anne shared the Covid-19 disclaimer.

**April Minutes** – Approved unanimously with edits.

**May Director's Report – Approved.** Approved unanimously after a discussion about key items.

**Agenda Items**

**Discussion Prep for Town Meeting**

**Key Items discussed –**

- **Warrant Article at Town Meeting about the Pilot Project Small Libraries Grant.** Mary Anne and a couple of Trustees will share information about how the needs of the community have been impacted by the pandemic due to the libraries small size, the lack of water to wash one's hands, having to limit in person browsing.
- **Amount of funds raised towards a new library**  
Nearly a half million dollars has been raised, thanks to the support of the library and the town. Fund-raising efforts will continue to be ongoing. We've had continuing contributions for the past ten years, which is an enormous show of support. We want the impact on the town's finances to be as little as possible.
- The value of the land for the potential site for a new library is part of the town's contribution of 25%.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting Agenda – on June 21, 2021.

- Debrief from Town Meeting
- Grant Application, Letter of Intent.

Respectfully submitted  
Michele Regan-Ladd  
Co-Chair, MN Spear Library Trustees

M.N. Spear Memorial Library  
10 Cooleyville Road  
Shutesbury, MA 01072  
Mary Anne Antonellis, Director  
Director Report - May 8, 2021

The Small Library Pilot is on the Selectboard agenda at 8:05 pm, Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>.

#### Construction grant news from the MBLC

With a \$13,871,314 provisional grant award to Amherst at its May 6 meeting, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) resumed Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program (MPLCP) grants that had been paused due to COVID-19. Amherst has until November 7, 2021 to accept the grant.

Also, at their May 6 meeting, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approved a pilot project to construct a new library building in a town of 2,000 or less population. The project will be all new construction and will be designed as a collaboration between the selected town and MBLC staff. Invitations to apply to be the pilot town will be sent directly to library and town officials in the eligible towns and will also be posted to this email list.

The goal of the pilot is to build a library that is functional, efficient, flexible, durable, and economical. We will be using this project to test some of the ideas we have for streamlining our grant process, and as a trial for using [\*Library Space: A Planning Resource for Librarians\*](#) in the field. We will also strive to incorporate the new Massachusetts sustainability and resilience goals into the project.

The potential to move forward with this long discussed project is here. Expecting a positive vote from the MBLC, I gave a brief presentation to the Finance Committee during their meeting on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

I expect the application soon, and to have four to six weeks to gather documentation and prepare our application. The MBLC is planning to choose a project by the end of July. They also expect the selected community to approve the local funding at the fall Special Town Meeting.

#### Open by appointment

I am planning to be open by appointment beginning Wednesday, May 19. We will begin with the schedule we used last fall, with two in-person visit days but I do anticipate expanding this to more days.

#### Kayaks

I hope to be able to make the kayaks available this summer. I would like Trustee approval to scale the program back to Shutesbury residents only. I am investigating online signatures.

#### Potential Warrant Article for Town Meeting

This is a DRAFT of potential language for a potential warrant article for Town Meeting. I am waiting for feedback from the MBLC.

To see if the Town of Shutesbury will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen and/or the Library Trustees to apply for any state funds which might be available to defray all or part of the cost of the design, construction and equipping of a new library project and to authorize the Library Building Committee and/or Board of Selectmen and/or Library Trustees to accept and expand any such funds when received without further appropriation.

### Long Range Plan

I have selected Abby Strauss of Maverick & Boutique to help facilitate focus groups to gather feedback for a new long range plan. A planning meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

I would like a small group of stakeholders to participate in this planning meeting. Two trustees, two Friends and one or two community members with relevant experience. Brad and Michele Regan-Ladd have agreed to participate for the Trustees. Susie Mosher and JoAnn Bernhard from the Friends and I have inquiries out to community members.

We are planning three focus groups.

### Programs

The Union 28 Community Network for Children is planning some outdoor, in-person story times and family programs. Participation will be limited, CNC Coordinator, Gillian Budine will be present during the programs, and masks and social distancing will be required.

Tales and Tunes will take place outside, every other Monday, until the end of June.

I am going to focus on take home kits and Storywalks for families again this summer.

Town Hall continues to be closed to the public so our live fitness programming will continue to meet online.

### Acorn TV Discontinued

Acorn TV has decided to discontinue their library service. This has been a very popular service and many library users will be disappointed. The service will end May 14<sup>th</sup>.

### Friends of the Library News

Shutesbury Photo Contest for a 2022 Calendar

Submit photos of flora, fauna, our place in time, places, landmarks, or buildings to [library.director@shutesbury.org](mailto:library.director@shutesbury.org) by August 15, 2021

Guidelines

- Limit five entries per person

- When submitting a photo, the entrant agrees that the photo may be used for fundraising purposes by the Friends of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library
- Photos must be taken in Shutesbury

### Tag Sale

The Friends are planning a tag sale on Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, under the Town Meeting tent.

This will be a 50/50 fundraiser, with half the proceeds benefiting the Friends general fund and half their new library fund.