

Trustees of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library
August 23, 2021, 7:30 pm, on Zoom
Minutes

- Members present: Michele Regan-Ladd, Kate Cell, Tim Logan, Brad Foster (late arriving), Savanna Ouellette, and Melanie DeSilva
- Mary Anne Antonellis: Library Director

Mary Anne made an announcement that the meeting is being held via Zoom due to the pandemic.

1. Approve August 9th Minutes

Kate made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Tim seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

2. Director's report

Michele asked Mary Anne to talk a little more about the MBLC regulations as they relate to opening the library. Mary Anne provided an overview of the MBLC certification regulations. With COVID, the MBLC had suspended some regulations, but all regulations have now been re-instated. Mary Anne will re-open the library after Labor Day and will figure out a new schedule. Mary Anne has asked the Board of Health for a capacity limit which will meet the certification requirements. Melanie asked what the Annual Report Information Survey (ARIS) is. Mary Anne explained it's a report of all statistics on the library, including circulation. Mary Anne got it done early. The next report due is the financial report. Both these reports are due for state certification.

Kate made a motion to accept the Director's report, Savannah seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

3. Erving Library Visit

Tim Logan, Kate, Michele and Brad are attending from the Trustees. Also attending are four members of the finance committee, members of the PTO, members of Friends of the Library, the town administrator, one select board member, and people from the community. Mary Anne has been reaching out to people she doesn't know well to invite them to tour the library. Masks will be required. The visit will be videotaped. The Erving Library is over 8000 sq/ft and cost \$5 million. Tim asked if it's the kind of library we need. According to Mary Anne it's not the kind of library we need. We can do quite nicely with something more modest and Mary Anne doesn't think Shutesbury would fund a \$5 million building. They have good heating and cooling systems. Their teen room is four times the size of the Leverett Library teen room. It has a community meeting room, two small meeting rooms, a children's room, a teen room, a café area, a maker's room, lots of staff work space, and good storage. There are things we can learn from the Erving Library, but we cannot ask Shutesbury for such a building. Instead we need a practical, cozy building that reflects the needs of our community, fits our rural community, and reflects our values and resources. Mary Anne reminded us to remember we need outdoor storage space for the kayaks.

Tim asked if the video will be narrated to let people know we're not looking for a library this size. Lauren will be giving the tour so you'll be able to hear her in the video. Nate Longcope the videographer and Mary Anne will also be visiting smaller libraries. Tim thinks these visits could be very important in persuading people who may be on the fence about building a new library. Michelle used to work at Erving Elementary and notes that they have more resources than Shutesbury. Kate stated that this visit is a double edged sword. As trustees we need to make sure people understand that we understand that this is not the library we need or are asking for. The trustees decided we need to send a message to the community that we understand that the Erving library is not the library we will be building. Proposed message- Visiting this library is a MBLC requirement and we are aware that this is not the library we can afford and need. The messaging should congratulate the Erving community and for their graciousness in

letting us tour the library. It was agreed that Kate will draft a message for the community. Tim proposes that where ever the video is posted, there should be an explanation of why this visit occurred. We agreed we will post a pre-visit and post-visit message.

Savannah thinks there needs to be a balance between messaging that we are looking to build a library that we can afford without sizing ourselves out of the future. Mary Anne responded that the grant requirement is that we have to build a library that meets the community's needs for the next 20 years.

Kate noted that planning for demographic changes isn't possible. With climate change, our community will be highly desirable- cooler, good source of water. We need to think about flexibility as much as possible in building this library. Kate provided an overview of the library project to Natalie Blais. Blais will share with Jo Comerford because Comerford has more power to earmark funds. We need to look for more funding- green community funding, climate act funding, etc. We should partner with the electric company. Tim asked if Kate had talked to Blais as a private citizen or the head of the Trustees. It was stressed that the chair of the Trustees is empowered to speak on behalf of the trustees- there is a bylaw allowing for this. There was controversy last time when a past trustee member didn't represent the spirit and messaging of the trustees.

Kate- our oath- We take very seriously the responsibility to provide the town of Shutesbury with the library need and can afford.

Kate- we need to separate the public good from the private good. Café, yoga versus educational programming space.

Savannah- not everyone is in favor of a new library. Some people think we don't need a new library.

Kate- what we can find common ground on is building a library we can afford.

4. Long Range Plan

We reviewed the four draft long range plan goals. It was agreed unanimously that Mary Anne's on the right track. Tim suggested eliminating goal one and incorporating it into other goals. The group decided to keep goal one, and provided some edits.

5. Site Selection updates

Mary Anne is asking Friends to fund the site testing work. Some library funds will also be used. Mary Anne is being very cautious in following all the rules in getting quotes for environmental testing. It's harder to get testing done now because of COVID- lots of people aren't in the office and are working from home. Kate asked if we should be documenting how COVID is implicating this process, and recommended that we let the MBLC know that COVID is making it challenging to get environmental testing in time. Michele stressed the need to give MBLC a head's up. Mary Anne will let the MBLC know that the environmental impact assessment has been challenging because of COVID, and that the quotes reflect that the providers may have an inability to get the work done because of COVID. Mary Anne added that the new computers have not arrived because of COVID. We need to choose a site by September 30.

6. Mediated Sessions update and possible dates

Mary Anne is waiting for facilitation proposals and will report back at the next meeting. Who should be at the mediated sessions? As many of us as possible who can be present and listen. Savannah pointed out that there are many viewpoints that need to be heard; not just the viewpoints of those who opposed the library during the last attempt. Savannah stressed that mediated sessions are very structured, and the mediators are in control of the process. Brad- the purpose is to gather information in mediated sessions and to listen to listen. We should be prepared to respond so people know they've been heard.

7. Additional items

- a. Padlet- send items to add to the padlet to Mary Anne who's also trying to schedule online sessions to brainstorm.
- b. There is a Wishtree next to the library, across from the townhall. Please stop by and add things you want for the library to it.
- c. Read through the building program template- Mary Anne will send the template to everyone tonight.
- d. Something to consider- Can or should we add zoom meetings to a google calendar?

8. Next meetings

Monday, September 13th, 7:30 pm

Monday, September 27th, 7:30 pm

Meeting adjourned at 9:11 pm.