

Trustees of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library
February 15, 2022 7:30pm, on Zoom
Minutes

- Members present: Michele Regan-Ladd, Tim Logan, Brad Foster, Savannah Ouellette, Melanie DeSilva, Kate Cell
- Mary Anne Antonellis: Library Director
- Guest: Diane Jacoby and Mary Lou Conca

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

- January 26, 2022 meeting minutes unanimously approved.
- Telescope policy: Unanimous approval to change the policy to allow anyone age 18+ to who is a CW/MARS cardholder to borrow the telescope with priority given to Shutesbury residents. If we find that this policy change is problematic, we can revisit it. This change is within the spirit of making science resources accessible, and to us contributing more to the library system.
 - Diane Jacoby (guest): She did not know that there was a telescope; maybe most people in Shutesbury do not know there is a telescope because it is not promoted more? Answer: the telescope has been promoted, but not everyone reads what Mary Anne puts out by way of promotion. It has not been promoted in the last two years due to COVID. Before this, when it was promoted more, it was still not checked out very often.
- Debrief from MBLC meeting
 - It was the understanding of the Library Board of Trustees that the goal of the meeting was for the MBLC to have the opportunity to interview town officials. Although the meeting was public and was announced publicly, it was the Trustees understanding that it was not intended to be a public forum. The format of the meeting ended up being more like a public forum which was a surprise and fostered some public concerned that we did not promote the meeting sufficiently.
 - It will be a challenge to compose a warrant article for town meeting. The MBLC does not expect the warrant article to be an open-ended financial ask. They have hired a very competent cost estimator. They expect the warrant article to be the cost estimate plus the generous contingencies added onto that. They do not expect the town to approve a blank check- no town would. The MBLC is paying 75% of eligible costs even if the project comes in over cost- this is the first time they have ever done this, and it is remarkable. This is what makes this an extraordinary opportunity. Much of the site work can be done by our highway dept. We can buy used furniture or get library furniture donations.
 - Some Trustees were surprised by the kinds of questions and wished we had them in advance, but overall it went well. Most questions are things we had talked about a lot.

- The next steps: The MBLC is going to let us know hopefully by mid-March what the decision is. They are waiting for the professional cost estimates.
- Town meeting is April 30. Town Hall has had requests for an outdoor town meeting and April 30 feels early for an outdoor meeting so the Selectboard will be considering whether they want to have an indoor meeting or an outdoor meeting in which case they would probably move the date.
- The finance committee has already met about the library, and already have various approaches to fund the library. Once we have the cost estimate, a meeting will be scheduled with the finance committee and selectboard.
- Weekend circulation position: Mary Anne will let the Trustees know if she needs help with the interview and hiring process.

Next meetings: Tuesday, March 15 7:30pm with Tuesday, March 21 at 7:30pm as an option if we need to adjust.

Respectfully submitted by Melanie DeSilva, Secretary, Library Board of Trustees