

MN Spear Library Trustees

Meeting

October 19, 2015

Members Present – Michele Cunningham, Michele Regan-Ladd, and Co-chairs – Molly Moss & Kate Cell
Library Director – Mary Anne Antonellis

Absent: Dale Houle, Gail Fleischaker

- Table 9/14 minutes - Michele Regan-Ladd will send Michele C edits and Michele C. will amend.
- Director's Report
 - Discussion of SLIN (Small Libraries in Networks) changes: Small grant changes are being proposed to make formula more equitable based on town's wealth property values and income. Our award will decrease by \$50 for FY 17.
 - Mary Anne met with other librarians and Steve Kulik on Friday 10/16/15 regarding concerns about the State Budget reduction of \$600,000 for Technology line to discuss how this is affecting local libraries. Mary Anne suggested that Trustees write a letter. Mary Anne will give talking points and we will look at next meeting.
 - We became aware of the decrease in numbers of children in town and Mary Anne has noted recent lower attendance in children's programs and is keeping an eye on trends as they affect children's programs. The library has promoted a variety of adult programs over the years and Mary Anne has noticed patterns in attendance. Given that much effort is required on her part to deliver programs she has decided to support those types of programs (e.g. cooking and crafts) that attract higher attendance. The trustees are here to support Mary Anne in this decision and if needed create a policy.
 - Motion to approve the Director's Report as given [attached] approved unanimously.
- Decision on Library's bookcase currently stored at Bonnie's house and other at school – Fine for now.
- Mary Anne brought goals for the Trustees to review. Mary Anne sees as a working document and shared examples of community outreach that are not specifically on goals. Kate suggested Mary Anne add and "Opportunistic Response" category as part of her strategy for when important, strategic, unanticipated opportunities arise. Trustees also suggested creating three general goals with a category to take advantage of opportunities. Mary Anne will write new goals in the spring.
- Review Long Range Goals to work on next strategic plans. Agenda for next month - action plan to send to the NBLC – Kate will find long range goals and send to trustees and Mary Anne will send the previous action plan before next meeting.
- Friends Volunteer Annual Meeting Friday, Nov. 6th, 2015
 - Trustees will send personal invitations.
 - Trustees will make lasagna. Friends will do dessert and salad. We will prepare to feed 80. Dinner at 6:00 at the AC 11/6/15.
- All Boards Meeting 7:00 on 10/20/15 - Kate will attend. Selectboard is going to use a format different from the usual reports. We reviewed some ideas Kate may want to include if asked.
- Mary Anne will keep giving us ideas for more specific ways we can support the Friends.
- Mary Anne will post the next meeting and agenda.

Agenda items from this meeting

Approve September 14 amended minutes

Talking points for Trustee letter to State Legislature from Mary Anne

Long Range Goals

Action Plan for MBLC

Kate update on All Boards Meeting

- Kate will create specific agenda for our next meeting.
- Next meeting - Monday Nov. 16th at 7:30

Respectfully Submitted,
Michele Cunningham
Secretary, MN Spear Library Trustees

M.N. Spear Memorial Library
10 Cooleyville Road
Shutesbury, MA 10172
Mary Anne Antonellis, Director

Monthly Report – October 2015

State Aid to Public Libraries Financial Report received by MBLC September 30, 2015.

Final reporting for the STEAMRolling at the SLEW Libraries submitted October 14, 2015

Local Cultural Council Grant Applications submitted on or before October 15, 2015

Friends of Library Coffee House/ Ha Ha Comedy Show
How to write a picture book with Jennifer Morris
The Play Workshop
A memoir writing workshop with Mara Bright
An eight week yoga series with Corrine Andrews (Shutesbury resident) from the Yoga Center of Amherst

Changes in Small Libraries in Network Funding anticipated for next year.

The Board of Library Commissioners has been reviewing how best to appropriate grant funds through the Small Library in Networks (SLIN) program in an effort to equitably distribute resources. Some changes have been proposed and it is likely they will be implemented in 2017.

I have attached two documents, one that explains the new formula and one that shows the awards to libraries based in the new formula. For FY17 our award will decrease by only \$50.

Reduction in State Budget line 9506 (Technology) of \$600,000 resulted in decreased payments to C/W MARS causing a budget shortfall. Our SLIN grant comes from this budget line. C/W MARS has invoiced all recipients of this grant \$300 to cover the shortfall.

I joined a group of librarians who met with Steve Kulik on Friday, October 16, 2015 to discuss how this budget reduction is affecting us locally.

Declining population of children – There are less children in Shutesbury – and at Shutesbury Elementary School. There are only seven kindergarteners, eleven 2nd graders (all girls) and 12 5th graders. We had lower attendance at some summer family programs and very low attendance at a couple of childrens programs last month. I will watch for trends.

Before I started as director, there was much less programming and much of what I have been doing is experimentation. Craft and cooking programs have been successful. Yoga was very well attended over the summer. Programs such as Positive Psychology and Visioning have had much lower participation. The people who did participate enjoyed the programs but there is a limit to the number of programs one person can offer and I have started to decline offers for programs that I think will not be well attended. If we had our own program space and programs could happen while the library was open, and I didn't have to leave home to make the space available and then be available to lock up, then we could allow people to use the space and promote their own programs. This kind of thing happens in Wendell, Leverett and Pelham. But we do not have the facility. Please let me know if you have any questions about this.

The Friends of the Library Turkey Dinner was delicious and a great community event!

Dan Paquin has donated a pair of Patriots tickets for a December 6th game. The Friends of selling raffle tickets for the Patriots tickets – the raffle tickets are \$5 each.

Sales have been a little slower than the Friends hoped. Perhaps each of the Trustees could take a few tickets and try to sell them.

We will be raffling the tickets at the Friends Annual Meeting on November 6th.

Bonnie Adams made Apple Pie Jam from Shutesbury apples. It is for sale at the library.