

**MN Spear Library Trustees  
Meeting  
December 14, 2015**

Members Present: Co-Chairs – Kate Cell & Molly Moss, Michele Cunningham, Gail Fleischaker, Dale Houle, Michele Regan-Ladd  
Library Director - Mary Anne Antonellis,

- 11/16/15/ Minutes approved unanimously
- Director's report - We received state aid and will receive a check for \$1402 from the state.
- Susie Mosher gave the trustees a Municipal Form from Office of Campaign and Political Finance which was signed by all trustees.
- Friends sent out annual membership mailing.
- Mary Anne will send out the budget for us for review.
- The Trustees and Library staff are being transparent about our process. Private fundraising and capital fundraising through the Yearly Town Meeting are all we are doing at this juncture. We will not participate in the 2017 Grant round. Earliest would be 2020, only if Broadband is up and running. We plan to stay the course and continue fundraising.
- \$584.00 made at Soups and Stews Friends fundraiser.
- Mary Anne shared talking points for letter to State Legislature regarding \$600,000 cut to technology line on the budget. Molly volunteered to take the information Mary Anne gave us about state budget and craft a letter requesting that the state restore the technology funding to the budget. She noted that if we each got one person in the eastern part of the state to agree to this in support of libraries it would help our cause.

Upcoming Events –

- *Being Mortal* By Atul Gawande - Book Group discussion on April 4<sup>th</sup> for attendees over 21 years old.
- April 14 – Presentation on Palliative Care

Long Range Plan– Discussion

- Current plan goes through 2016. We need a new 5 year plan to start Jan. 2017. At our January meeting we will plan 2 focus groups for the Spring. Kate will talk to her brother about ideal numbers for groups (15 – 20?) Molly noted that Forbes Library invites staff, trustees, friends, and public to be included in the planning. If looking for rapid change that you want people involved in then it is strategic to include as many as possible in the process. Visioning process may give us indications of how we may want to proceed. Mary Anne noted that goals and objectives should allow room for input from the community. MLS says ask basically 5 simple questions that balance between specific and more general ideas. Run the survey April through Town Meeting and decide if we need to modify or not as responses come in.
- We discussed the need for a new library and our desire to engage as much of the opposition as possible.

Annual Report Discussion– moved to January meeting. Fiscal report for FY15

- Holiday Cards for staff and volunteers on behalf of the trustees – Mary Anne will type up a list and send to Kate who will send to us.
- Next meetings  
Monday, January 11, 2016  
February 8, 2016

Agenda topics for January:  
Director's Report  
Annual Report  
Focus Groups  
Survey

Respectfully submitted by Michele Cunningham, Secretary

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

## Monthly Report – December 12, 2015

The Commonwealth Catalog is now live. It is an online resource that provides access to libraries and library consortia beyond C/W MARS. It replaces the Massachusetts Virtual Catalog. Both Cynthia and I have participated in online trainings in its use and we have processed the first incoming and outgoing items in the CC this past week.

On Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> I attended the Cornerstones Library Partner Summit in Augusta, ME. Cornerstones is the organization that is coordinating the IMLS grant we are involved with. I gave a brief presentation about the STEAMrolling at the SLEW Libraries program we just completed. I attended presentations on funding science initiatives, developing vs. facilitating science programs, and collecting data to evaluate effectiveness of services. Summit attendees were given a Makey Makey – a computer gizmo I am looking forward to sharing with our community's children.

The Friends of the Library Soup and Stew Dinner was another lovely community building event and successful fundraiser. Thank you to Susie and Dave Mosher, Fred Steinberg, Matt Franz, Bonnie Adams, Joann Bernhard, and Weezie and Dale Houle for implementing this event. Many people donated soups, stews, breads and desserts. I will list them in a thank you post on Facebook.

The townspeople who organize the Holiday Shop, Melinda LeLacheur, Colleen Chudzick, and Joie Cepela are very welcoming of the Friends of the Library at this event. Melinda created a very nice insert for the Friends' membership mailing, advertising the dinner and the shop.

The Shutesbury Athletic Club is always welcoming and supportive of library events at the club. They are a great community resource.

Big Y donated a \$25 gift card which I used to help purchase pizza for the Family Literacy program in November.

The Library is collaborating with the Union 28 Community Network for Children to bring Ellen Mayer to Shutesbury. Ellen has done extensive education research and has created some board books designed to help families support their babies and toddlers language development. We will give a set of the books to each family attending the program. This program will be held in March.

Leslie Cerier will offer a chocolate baking program on February 4<sup>th</sup>.

### Info for advocacy for State Library Budget:

**A. Funding for libraries is a tiny part of the state budget**, in fact it is only .007 (seven one thousandths) of the total state budget. Compared to most other shared costs, such as education, safety, or health care, libraries do not require big money to make a big difference.

- i. The MBLC budget lines are coordinated to offer the broadest, best library services throughout the Commonwealth, to build/support infrastructure and support services at the local library level.
- ii. The programs in one line build with the others. They are designed to make the broadest possible resources available to each and every resident of the Commonwealth
- iii. When one item is cut, it effects the others.

### **B. Cut to 9506 - Automated Networks, Technology and Resource Sharing**

- i. Devastatingly deep cut; \$600,000 – This Line item (7000-9506) was cut 24% in the 2016 budget process. This cut, along with a cumulative lack of funding over the years, means that the line item is now 52% below the 2001 level while the use of technology in libraries has exploded.
- ii. This cut was particularly confusing since Line 9506 was one of our two priorities AND in **FY15 the line had been increased by \$800,000**. (Even after the 9c cuts, it was still \$747,326 over the previous year.)

Using this increased funding, the MBLC was able to support the **more than 57 small public libraries** that had struggled to be part of Automated Library Networks. 57 small libraries received funding to support their network membership through the Small Libraries in Networks program. Twenty one libraries that are still unable to join a network, received funding to provide Internet access in their libraries.

The M.N. Spear Memorial saw a \$300 decrease in support from the Small Libraries in Network grant for the current fiscal year.

For a small town library with a modest budget, a sudden, unexpected \$300 bill is a burden.

The M.N Spear Memorial Library will be participating in a regional read of *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande. This initiative is being led by the Forbes Library in Northampton and Cooley Dickenson Hospital.