

Minutes
MN Spear Memorial Library
12/13/16

Attending: Director - Mary Anne Antonellis, Co-Chairs- Kate Cell and Molly Moss, Brad Foster, Michele Regan-Ladd, Michele Cunningham, Dale Houle

November Minutes approved with revisions. Michele will post

Gratitude all around to Mary Anne for all her amazing work over the past couple of months with all the extras, meals, fund raising, report writing, Master Plan Working Group meetings and on and on and on. We honor her incredible commitment and are eternally grateful.

Director's Report approved.

Long Range Plan

5 year cycle - plan expires December, 2016. Brad, Mary Anne, Kate and Michele R-L formed a committee to work on this plan. Decided to make it shorter with fewer, more tangible goals, acknowledge the high level of service and keep that high, but recognize that we will not likely get the new building or the number of resources we would like in the duration of this plan (5 years). We want to keep the focus on honoring the great work Mary Anne is doing with programming and fund raising. Trustees requested additional time to read the report. We agreed to each read individually, e-mail changes to Mary Anne by Sunday, Dec. 18th. Mary Anne will send revised document by Wed. the 21st to the Chairs to sign and they will approve by Friday the 23rd.

Suggestion: Tying action plan to the goals. Action 1 relates to goal 1, Action 3 relates to goal 4, Action 2 relates to Goal 3. Acceptable and efficient to have an action reach more than one goal.

Above Long Range Plan process approved.

Review Annual report:

Edits by Brad shared 127 programs is amazing. Wendell has 300. Mary Anne noted that, unlike Wendell, we do not have capacity to have a program in the library when the library is open and this limits the number of programs we can have.

Annual report approved unanimously.

Dec. 1 Finance Committee Meeting Reflections

Brad, Michele R-L, Molly and Mary Anne attended and felt the meeting went very smoothly. We are at less than 1% of the town budget. We are asking for 2.5% increase because required by the state. Question was asked at the Finance Committee about what would happen if the town decided not to give that increase? Mary Anne's response: In a time of budget crisis and as long as the cuts were across the board and all departments were level funded we could apply for a waiver and we would probably get it. It is a lot of paper work for the town accountant. Town has to make up the budget shortfall afterward. At some point the town would have to buy

the waiver out and get re-certified. Town agrees that we should continue to save for a new library. Many people in town are putting in their own time and money to assist that process.

Capital Planning Meeting December 20th. Kate and Dale agreed to attend.

Master Plan Working Group Dec. 3 meeting reflection

Discussed the idea of needing more input from younger people who were very under-represented in survey and at meetings. Desire to balance the population of the town and attract more young people. Discussed the lower cost of housing which can balance the high taxes. A new library came up frequently in the responses and lots of important comments about the need for a new library. People also concerned about taxes. We have to work hard to save and fund-raise for a new library. Perhaps a negotiating idea is to have an agreement of support if we agree to raise a portion of the money. We will all look through the results from the survey in the context of a new library and a timeline. What does it mean for the tax burden? What is our willingness to pay as a town? Thinking about how we campaign in the future. The message and the messenger is important. In the meantime, keep doing what we are doing so well.

Content for piece Kate will write for Our Town Newsletter.

Even though we can't do everything we might like, here's what we do provide to the community. Saving for the future. Listening to the feedback that is coming from the MPWG. Kate will pull out stats and frame the document, and Mary Anne will plug in the anecdotes. We do have a library and want to emphasize what we are already doing well, while acknowledging that we are limited by the lack of space..

Next Meeting Monday, January 9, 2017.

Agenda:

- Approvals
- MPWG survey results discussion in the context of library direction
- Our Town Newsletter piece - give input on draft – discuss public communications
- New Year's Cards to Friends of the Library

Mary Anne will post the meeting – also on Nextdoor Shutesbury

Minutes Respectfully submitted by Michele Cunningham

Director's Report December 2016

M.N. Spear Memorial Library
10 Cooleyville Road
Shutesbury, MA 01072
Mary Anne Antonellis, Director
December 10, 2016

The Friends of the Library hosted a Soups and Stews Dinner at the SAC on Friday, December 9th. It was an amazing selection of donated homemade soups, stews, breads and desserts, with contributions from eighteen families. The dinner raised \$613!

The Friends' annual membership mailing arrived in Shutesbury mailboxes on Wednesday and Thursday, December 7th and 8th. Teen volunteer, Casey Bowen helped prepare the mailing. I ordered two new computers for the staff desks. Hank Allen installed them Saturday, December 10, 2016.

Approximately 180 people responded to the 1st MPWG survey. The summary of data provided by Harriman (the consultant hired to help with the visioning process) suggested significant interest in the need for a new library and community meeting space. The MPWG has asked for the raw data from the survey. Approximately 25 people attended the second community visioning workshop on Monday, December 5th. The need for a new library came up often in the conversation. Harriman will summarize the data from this second meeting and present it at an upcoming MPWG meeting. A 2nd survey has been released,

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Shutesbury>. All Shutesbury residents are encouraged to complete the survey. Hardcopies are available at the Library, Post Office, Town Hall and SES for folks who need/prefer a paper copy. Minutes from the MPWG meetings, as well as summaries of data from workshops and survey are posted on the MPWG webpage.

http://www.shutesbury.org/master_plan_working_group

With support from Fred Steinberg, Shutesbury Web Committee member, I was able to add minutes to the Trustee webpage. I have also recently worked with Fred to ensure that the information on the page is current. Please let me know if there are other changes needed.

Rosie Heidkamp, Director of the Wendell Library, applied for a grant on behalf of the five public libraries in the Union 28 School Union, (Shutesbury, Wendell, Leverett, Erving, New Salem – the group collaborating on our current IMLS project) from the New Salem Academy to bring Emily Hodos to each of our libraries to do a program on Neuroplasticity for Seniors. Our program is scheduled for February 15th.

Governor Baker announced 9C cuts to the State Budget earlier this week. The State budget library line were not affected. There were some inaccurate news accounts suggesting cuts to funding for broadband. Here is a copy of an email clarifying that the broadband budget lines are also unaffected.

(Sent on behalf of Peter Larkin - Special Advisor to the Secretary of EOHED & MBI Board Chair)

December 9, 2016

Dear Municipal Leaders,

Yesterday, several media outlets incorrectly reported that funding for Last Mile broadband expansion in Western Massachusetts was included in recent state budget cuts.

Let me be clear: Last Mile funds were not impacted by these cuts. Those are bond funds covered under the Commonwealth's annual capital plan, not by the annual state budget.

We continue to advance local projects and earlier this week the MBI approved [three Last Mile grants](#) for town-managed expansion projects, totaling \$1.9 million in funds. These grants highlights our commitment to addressing the Last Mile challenge in all unserved towns.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out to myself or the MBI staff.

Regards,

Peter Larkin