

M.N. Spear Memorial Library Trustees
Minutes 1-9-17

Attending: Library Director, Mary Anne Antonellis, Chair, Molly Moss, Dale Houle, Michele Regan-Ladd, Brad Foster, Michele Cunningham

Absent: Kate Cell

Guests: Karen Traub, Paul

Karen Traub stopped in at our meeting with a visitor, Paul, who has found a number of artifacts with his metal detector. He showed us an abbreviated version of what he has found in Shutesbury including a 1793 Spanish Real silver coin he found on Reed Road off West Pelham Rd. Karen and Paul would like to know if the library would be the appropriate place to hold these artifacts. They would be gifted to the library. Paul believes there is a lot more to be found in Shutesbury. Paul has given his collection of artifacts to Karen and she would like to have them on display and feels the library would be the perfect place since libraries are responsible for keeping the history alive. Karen will take them home with her for now. Paul can talk about the many little details of these artifacts and would be interested in providing a program to share the artifacts and the history.

Trustees agreed to discuss this possibility at next meeting.

Karen has written in her will that she is donating to the library for local history and is requesting that we set up a fund so this and any future donations will have a place to go. Trustees will discuss at next meeting. Mary Anne will send an e-mail to Karen letting her know that we will discuss this and the artifacts at our next meeting.

December Minutes and Director's Report approved.

Director's Report. Our circulation is bucking the trend with its upward spiral. We are up 15% first quarter and 13% second quarter. Circulating more DVDs and also books. We have had an increase every year. Good indication that Collection Development is going well. Mary Anne will look at the Commonwealth Collection to see about circulation there.

Policy for M.N. Spear Library Use by Outside Groups 501 (C) (3) for fundraising purposes. Trustees discussed. Policy approved with revisions.

Susie Mosier is including in the census forms the town positions that are opening. There are two Library trustee positions opening. Dale intends to run again. Molly is not intending to run again, but has found someone, Jaime Donta who is interested in running.

Mary Anne shared about a UMass Graduate student who conducted a research project about libraries in small communities. She interviewed Mary Anne, Cynthia and some patrons. She wrote a paper and created a beautiful picture book that Mary Anne shared. Mary Anne will make a couple of copies and will share the paper with us.

Thank-you cards written to Friends of the Library and volunteers.

Deadline for *Our Town* Newsletter is 1/13/17. We will entrust the process to Kate for writing about the library programs and submitting, if she is willing, and has the time. Mary Anne will contact her with this request.

We began artifact discussion. We do not have a space now for artifacts, but may be able to purchase a display box to mount on a wall. Rosie recommended that we get a letter from Paul that states what he is gifting that we keep on file. Trustees had some questions about protocol. Molly will ask her archivist at the Forbes about procedural and possible legal issues and the general process regarding found artifacts. We also had questions about how this will be presented if a program is created. Is this something that should go through the historical commission, considering they have no space? Mary Anne will talk to Rosie in Wendell. Molly and Mary Anne will report back at next meeting and we will discuss further.

Next meeting Monday, Feb. 13th - 7:30 at the Library.

Agenda:

Reports/Approvals

Artifact findings and continued discussion

Review/Discuss Master Plan Working Group Report

Discuss setting up a fund as requested by Karen Traub

Mary Anne will post.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Michele Cunningham.

M.N. Spear Memorial Library

[10 Cooleyville Road](#)

[Shutesbury, MA 01072](#)

Director's Notes

December 6, 2017

Circulation

In the second quarter of FY17 the library circulated 8,453 items. During the same period last year circulation was 7,462, a difference of 991 items or a 13.28 percent increase.

From July 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016, patrons borrowed 1,072 digital items via Overdrive. In the same time period last year digital circulation through Overdrive was slightly higher, 1,106.

Save the Date

The Play Workshop's Pop-Up Adventure Playground has been booked for Friday, June 16th at 6 pm at the Shutesbury Athletic Club. The Friends of the Library will be simultaneously hosting an Ice Cream Social. We can celebrate ongoing support for the library, the end of school and the beginning of summer!

MPWG

As of 1/4/17 there have been 146 responses to the second MPWG visioning survey.

Here is the link if you are still planning to respond, <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VZ387TG>

Funds saved for a New Shutesbury Library

As of December 20,2016, funds saved for a future new library project total **\$261,826**. These funds are comprised of the following:

- \$127,700 - Appropriated by Annual Town Meeting
- \$13,723 - Donated by Barr Ashcroft
- \$115,946 - Private donations held by the Friends of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library
- \$4,457 - Private donations in Town held account.

Karen Traub asked to meet with the Trustees regarding some relics a friend of hers found in Shutesbury. Karen indicated that the Wendell Library accepted some relics from Wendell so I contacted Rosie HeidKamp, Director. Here is her reply.

We love Paul. He has small interesting items from years of running a metal detector all over Wendell. He eventually teamed up with a member of the Wendell Historical Society and working from very old maps they went from one old Wendell house site to the next to see what they could turn up. Its mostly just buttons, coins, nails, rings, generally not things of great value, but sometimes it gives some insight into the history of a Wendell family or farmstead. I believe he has found an old Daniel Shays Rebellion camp site in Shutesbury.

Ownership is always an issue. I would make sure the donation is to the Library or the town. The Historical **Society** is not a town entity and if it is not incorporated in some form and seems secure and ongoing I would not let the items go to the Historical Society. The Historic **Commission** is part of the town government but it would be highly unlikely that they would store or display artefacts. Their mission is to make sure that buildings on the historic register are properly repaired and cared for. If he is donating the items to the library or town be sure to get something in writing so that ownership is clear into the future.

I asked Karen for more information. Here is her reply.

Hi all,

Looks like I'm not gonna be able to stop by this week and show Mary Anne the stuff- it's waited a few hundred years, no need to be in a rush. I have a cookie tin full of items in bags, labelled where and when they were found including lead musket balls, coins, a silver spoon, buttons, buckles and wedding rings, along with photos of some of the sites and genealogical notes. The question is whether there is a place in the library's local history collection for them now or in the future. UMASS special collections is also interested possibly. Paul can talk about the items but perhaps in the interest of time, the trustees can have a general discussion about whether this collection is something the library wants. [I hope to be able to drive by Monday but it's fine if Paul and I don't need to be at this meeting.](#)

