

Corrected &  
Accepted  
3/13/17

**MEETING OF THE MONTEREY LIBRARY TRUSTEES**  
**Held at the Monterey Library**  
**February 6, 2017**

**PRESENT:** Kenn Basler, John Higgins, Mickey Jervas  
Beth Reiter and Lisa Smyle  
MaryPaul Yates, on sabbatical,  
joined via Skype  
Library Director Mark Makuc  
Absent - no one

Meeting was called to order - 7:15pm.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of January 9, 2017 were accepted by motion made by Beth and seconded by John.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Bonner McAllester submitted a report of her pre-Thanksgiving day accident on the library path and all paperwork is now on hand and in order.

The Bounous Memorial art show has been well received with a number of sales already made. All proceeds from this show are being donated to the Library Building Fund.

We are not yet subscribed to Boopsie [the check hasn't been cut yet] but it is in the works. Hopefully it will be in use by next month.

Our current router is three year old; a new one is on order.

New library cards with our new logo will be on order shortly.

The MBLC Construction Program Grant Application was mailed out two days before the deadline. Four extra copies [for a total of 12] were put together; one for Town Hall, one for the library and two extras. A huge job completed.

Next up for discussion were the logistics of grant approval. We got Dan Palotta, our OPM, on speaker phone to join in this conversation. Dan let us know that the MBLC received 33 grant applications and that they have \$150 million to grant for this round. He is of the opinion that ours is the smallest request.

Grant awarding will be announced in July. To obtain Town funding an article must be on a Town Meeting warrant. It

is to our, and the whole Town's, benefit to present this at the May 2017 town meeting to obtain approval for provisional bonding, which would be dependant on getting the MBLC grant. No grant; bonding is not pursued. This would save a whole year in getting plans, etc. completed and construction would be able to start a year earlier. This would save a year's worth of escalation costs. Because of the timing of MBLC Grant payments, 20% per year for five years, it is necessary for the Town to bond the full cost of the project. From time approval of grant is received and work begins on architectural drawings it will probably be three years until the project is completed.

Discussion followed about members of the Trustees having a joint meeting with the Select Board and the Finance Committee about putting this on the May 2017 Town Warrant. It was agreed that Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup> in the late afternoon [4pm?] would work for most. Dan and Jeremia Pollard will be consulted for opinions and correct wording for the warrant.

Mark asked for direction with ongoing issues with accounting work not coming out of Town Hall. The new accountant hasn't paid bills - none that pre-dated her coming on board December 30<sup>th</sup> and has missed some that have been handed in on her watch. She wants a W-9 form from all vendors, which is not applicable. The new treasurer doesn't have time to straighten out payroll issues from 2016. It will be at least a couple of weeks before she can look into this mess. It was agreed that if these matters did not get cleaned up in short order then Mark should go to Willie as it should fall under his jurisdiction to find a way to get the books in order.

Mark asked if we thought he should meet with Dennis Lynch, one of the town's grant writers, to see about applying for a USRDA grant and any others that may be available. We agreed that this would be a good time to start seeking out funds.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Mark and Lisa attended the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Berkshire Legislative Breakfast held this year in the Stockbridge Library on January 27<sup>th</sup>. Speakers included representatives of the MBLC, MLS, Western Mass Library Advocates and library patrons. Berkshire County State Representatives Pignatelli, Cariddi and Farley-Bouvier attended, as did Senator Hinds. Materials were provided

that outlined the current MBLC budget request and how increases would be used.

Library funding is .06% of the state budget. Some line items are down ~~up to~~ 53% from the high. Statewide delivery, so important to all libraries and mostly small rural libraries, in particular is threatened by underfunding.

There was a demonstration of work produced on Pittsfield's Berkshire Athenaeum 3D printers.

Trustees were asked to contact the state representatives about the budget cuts to deliveries, which affects everyone. We were also asked to get friends and neighbors to also approach the reps, the more people they ~~here~~ <sup>hear</sup> from the better.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** Mickey suggested it may be time to start thinking of various fund raising venues to be undertaken by the Friends for the building program.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm by motion made by Lisa and seconded by John.

**NEXT MEETING:** Monday, March 13, 2017 - 7:00pm  
Agenda - Building program up-date  
Fund raising ideas

Submitted by: Mickey Jervas, Secretary