

Chair Lowrie called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Present: Trustees Elaine Alligood, Mark Carthy, and Mary Keenan and Director Maureen Connors. Trustees Sarah Phillips and Matt Sullivan were absent.

The minutes of the June 5 meeting were unanimously approved; the motion was made by Chair Lowrie and seconded by Trustee Alligood.

Old Business

Field Meeting Update Chair Lowrie explained that the timing of the library project has changed; the earliest announcement of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) grant will be three months after the expected date, so approval at Belmont Town Meeting and the appointment of a building committee has been moved to the spring Town Meeting. Hence, time for fund raising is expanded. The question was raised - do we want a push for funds at the end of the year that is the usual gift-giving period? The MBLC grant will be announced in October with definite awards for the top eight applicants; Belmont is second on the list. Then, with six months needed for debt exclusion, this would happen at the fall 2013 Town Meeting. Belmont would need an extension from the MBLC for this.

Trustee Carthy suggested that there be separate fund raising to tie-in with library events so potential donors would have the library on their radar.

The question of a vote for the debt exclusion was considered: is the library the only item on the November ballot which is needed to meet state requirements? An extension would be needed from the state.

There is no new action on the field/pool front; the RFP is underway. Regarding the incinerator site, the state mandated that the Town remediate the site; this has not happened. There has not been a possibility of meeting with the state on the incinerator site. Chair Lowrie will contact Board of Selectmen Chair Paolillo.

Trustee Carthy asked if the debt exclusion requires a separate vote. Would a Town Meeting vote be sufficient for the library debt exclusion? Given the small amount of money for the library project, could the library slide in as other debt exclusions are met?

Belmont Library Foundation – Video update

The video needs a statement on the need for a library in the Internet Age. Director Connors will tell Ann Donahue, videographer, that the calendar has changed. The target date is now March.

Grants

The grants for the YA proposal and the Preservation of Materials were denied by the state.

Painting of Building

Director Connors has had difficulty in getting a bid for painting the library; Trustee Carthy suggested combining this job with another town job.

Wireless update

Director Connors reported that the new update is working; what had been spotty coverage is now excellent.

New Business

Judy McSwain of the Circulation staff has submitted her resignation effective September 27, but wishes to remain involved with filling-in and volunteering. Chair Lowrie made a motion to approve hiring to fill this position immediately. Seconded by Trustee Carthy, the motion passed unanimously.

One Book, One Belmont

Trustee Alligood introduced the Art Opening with works by Lee Strasburger, the "Anatomy of Melancholy." The September 15 concert by the Apocalypso Players led by Roger Brown was a success; author Tom Perotta joined the final set. Director of Adult Services Emily Reardon was commended for her excellent work in organizing the One Book, One Belmont program.

Director's Report

Concern was expressed that the Children's Circulation down: it was noted that it was August in Belmont with 21, 749 children's books circulated!

Mary Alice Wistman is the new president of the Friends of the Belmont Library (FOBL); Megan Pickett is vice-president. The FOBL has given \$500 to librarian Miriam MacNair's Books and Bites program which now includes speakers. Trustees are invited to volunteer to assist at the Friends Book sale, the weekend of October 12 to 14; contact Mary Alice Wistman.

David Kale, the new town administrator has visited the Belmont Library and met library staff; Director Connors will invite Mr. Kale to the next trustees meeting.

There was discussion and agreement that the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Library Trustees would be posted on the library web-site.

Executive Session

Chair Lowrie called for an Executive session with the reason to discuss union negotiations; all subjects that will be discussed cannot be discussed outside of Executive Session. The regular meeting will not reconvene; adjournment will follow Executive Session. The roll call vote to move into executive session is as follows:

Trustee Carthy – Yes, Trustee Keenan – Yes, Trustee Alligood – Yes, Chair Lowrie – Yes. The meeting moved into Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary E. Keenan, secretary

NEXT MEETING OCTOBER 30 7p.m. – invitation to Town Administrator David Kale

Exhibits:

Agenda September 18, 2012

Minutes June 5, 2012 regular and executive sessions

Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners letters;

 Preservation Survey grant – denied

 Serving ‘Tweens and Teens grant – denied

Resignation letter to Director Connors from Circulation Staff member Judy McSwain

Schedule of events for One Book, One Belmont featuring Tom Perrotta’s The Leftovers

DRAFT – Video

Director’s Report September 18, 2012

Activity Report June 2012, July 2012, August 2012

Belmont Public Library Expenditures September 17, 2012

Massachusetts Library Trustees Association - notice of meeting October 27, 2012

Belmont Library handout – Wireless Internet Access Frequently Asked Questions

Letter from Chair Lowrie to Belmont Librarian’s Association President Shaver