

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 by Chair Matt Lowrie. Present were Trustees Elaine Alligood, Mark Carthy, Mary Keenan, Matt Sullivan and Director Maureen Connors. Trustee Sarah Phillips was absent. Also present were School Committee members Chair Laurie Graham and Dan Scharfman.

The minutes for the meeting of January 26th were unanimously approved on a motion by Trustee Carthy, seconded by Trustee Sullivan.

Old Business:

- A. FY13 Budget update Director Connors reported on a meeting she and Trustee Keenan had with the Warrant Committee/Library Sub-Committee Chair Liz Allison. Ms Allison requested additional information on the request for Children's Summer Evening Programs and for the YA librarian's additional five hours.

Dates for Town Meeting are April 23rd and 25th, with the 26th if needed.

Financial matters will be considered at a session of Town Meeting to be held on May 14, with May 16th if needed

- B. Belmont Library Foundation (BLF) update by Trustee Carthy, representative to the BLF. The BLF is interested in hiring a fund-raiser, but some items need to be resolved. A budget of \$6500 would be 2 hours per week for a year. If the grant is issued this summer, the BLF will certainly reconsider the amount of work needed to be done in a shortened time frame. BLF member Marcie Schorr Hirsch will work with Director Connors on funding for this position.

Chair Lowrie has talked with Town Meeting Moderator Mike Widmer about speaking about the library at April Town Meeting. The Library Annual Report has been sent by Town Clerk Cushman to all Town Meeting Members.

Chair Lowrie suggested to School Committee that the high school softball field be relocated to Hittinger Field and that the new ball field at the incinerator site would be a town field. Director Connors contacted Glenn Clancy (Community Development) who is willing to look at this. The cost of fencing, if needed, would be part of the package.

Action Item: Chair Lowrie will contact Selectman Mark Paolillo to meet on this critical issue.

New Business:

- A. Grants Director Connors reported on a call from Shrewsbury Library, #8 on the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) construction wait list, which is ready to begin work and would like the money at once. Trustee Carthy stated the feeling of the group that we should wait and see how the grant awards proceed, rather than ask the MBLC to change its procedure for Shrewsbury.

YA librarian Ellen Girouard is applying for a YA Teen Advisory Grant (\$15K).

Digitization of newspapers has been put on hold as a Preservation Survey Grant (\$2,500) is needed first. The Library will apply for this grant. But, with the time delay necessitated by this grant process, the Library will keep the request for a reader in the FY13 Budget in an amended form to convert the microfilm collection to a digital form.

Director Connors and Trustee Keenan reported on Ms. Allison's proposal of an Informed Citizenry Grant (\$100-200K). There are a myriad of questions to answer and details to work out; more on this will follow at a later date.

Other Business:

Trustee Keenan asked about the sub-committee on the Town Facilities Consolidation. Director Connors and Trustees Keenan and Sullivan met and drew up a list of library concerns. Trustee Carthy asked if would be better to go it alone. Trustee Alligood asked if there would be "on-call" people. There are many questions to be answered.

Director's Report

Financial Report Director Connors reported that custodial overtime is not in the negative at this time due to the mild winter – to date. Substitutes for individuals on sick leave are hired at a lower dollar amount.

Next meeting – Thursday March 29th 7:30 p.m.

Trustee Matt Sullivan reported on Chris Starr's idea of having a library branch/computer space in the Cushing Square development. Trustee Alligood noted that this is an opportunity to have programs or other library events, Cyberteens, and so forth.

The motion to adjourn made by Trustee Carthy, seconded by Trustee Sullivan, passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary E. Keenan, secretary

List of exhibits:

Agenda for meeting February 21, 2012

Minutes for meeting of January 26, 2012

Fact Sheets on Grants: "Serving Tweens and Teens. . .," "Preservation Survey"

MBLC's letter of acceptance of the long-range plan for the Belmont Library

Director's Report

Activity Report for January 2012

Library Expenditure February 2012

