

Chair Matt Lowrie called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the Library. Present were trustees Elaine Alligood, Mark Carthy, Mary Keenan and Director Maureen Conners. Trustees Sarah Phillips and Matt Sullivan were absent. Kathy Keohane attended the meeting.

The minutes of the meeting of January 6, 2014 were approved on a motion by Chair Lowrie, seconded by Trustee Alligood, and approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Trustee Carthy raised the question of making a part-time position into a full-time position of 35 hours with benefits. The Library has fewer part-time positions with benefits. Part-time hours have been reduced. The Board of Selectmen as the elected Town officials should address this entire issue of part-time positions with a comprehensive policy for the Town. The Library has raised this issue with the Selectmen in the past.

Budget update

Should the Library request renovations to the Children's Room? This would be a temporary fix but renovations would trigger sentiment against a new building.

The question was raised if the MBLC would award a grant to a library w/o underground parking? Why not have ground level parking and the library above? The costs of a new building w/o parking must be clear. The 2005 plan for a building on site with underground parking does not work. There have been advances in technology for which space is needed - example, Maker spaces. A new plan is needed without delay. But, who has responsibility for the cost of this study? The question remains - should the Library go to Town Meeting to test the waters? The minutes of the meeting with Town officials were considered. A minor renovation would be a barrier to a major renovation/rebuild. Trustee Carthy stated that the volume of traffic in the Children's Room necessitates present renovation. Director Conners believes that the proposed renovation is just a band-aid, not what a new building or a total renovation would look like. If work is done on the Children's Room and the elevator and then if the boiler fails, will ADA be triggered? Does the Library want to maintain the request for the elevator? Chair Lowrie stated that the elevator is a safety issue; access to the elevator is vital for some patrons.

Chair Lowrie will outline the options to be presented.

ITAC liaison - Chair Lowrie will verify the interest of a nominee.

NEW BUSINESS

Director Connors announced staff changes – Em Smith and Julie Goldman have left. Jonanna Breen has been hired as a full-time reference librarian and Kylie Sparks as part-time Reference Librarian. The job of technology librarian held by Ms Smith has been posted.

March 10th is the closing date for the warrant for Town Meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Circulation was discussed. The newly-established Town Financial Task Force will set the schedule for capital projects.

The survey from the Task Force was discussed to gain input from the trustees. Director Connors will circulate a draft for responses prior to next week's due date. Some responses included a list of statutory requirements – MBLC directives; major activities must consider private study rooms and the forecasted Town population growth; opportunities would include a state building grant. Trustee Alligood proposed that we turn the table and grow the Library to meet the high school demands, not have the library as a component of the high school building.

There will be a place holder for the Town Warrant. Chair Lowrie made a motion to approve the drafting and filing of a non-binding resolution for a new library building; this will be drafted by Trustee Carthy and Chair Lowrie with the advice of the Director. This motion was seconded by Trustee Carthy and voted unanimously.

Director Connors will advise trustees of the meeting date/time with the Capital Budget Committee. Interest was shown in attending same.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Next meeting - March 25th - 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Keenan, secretary

Exhibits

Agenda for February 18 (postponed to 27) meeting

Minutes for meeting of January 6, 2014

Questions for Financial Task Force Survey

Letters of resignation – Emily Smith and Julie Goldman

Town of Belmont Public Notice - Warrant Deadline

Director's Report February 18, 2014

Belmont Cultural Council letter to Librarian Corinne Chan – grant award

Belmont Public Library Expenditures February 2014

Belmont Public Library Activity Report – January 2014, February 2014