

Chair Matt Lowrie called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. in the Claflin Room of the library. Present were trustees Elaine Alligood, Mark Carthy, Mary Keenan, Sarah Phillips, and Matt Sullivan and Director Maureen Connors. Melissa Lynch represented the Belmont Library Foundation.

The minutes for the June 11, 2013 meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Chair Lowrie and seconded by Trustee Phillips.

Old Business

MBLC

The action by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) to deny the petition by the trustees to apply the current grant of \$7.5 M to the present site was discussed. The library is in a quandary as the present site could not be used in the grant round as the Town's Capital Project Overview Committee mandated another site. The MBLC stated that the site was in the control of the town. Thanks were expressed to Senator Brownsberger and Representative Rogers for their support of the library's petition. Chair Lowrie motioned that after the notification by the MBLC of the denial of the site change, that the library state that it would not take the grant money subject to confirming this in advance with the Board of Selectmen. Seconded by Trustee Sullivan, the motion passed unanimously.

Next steps for the library were discussed, raising the following questions:

- Is the money in the Belmont Library Foundation (BLF) accounts solely for a new building?
- What do the townspeople really want?
- Should there be a request for a vote at Town Meeting this fall to determine support?
- Should the Concord route (no state money) be followed?

Chair Lowrie cited three options:

1. limp along
2. apply for the next grant round – five to seven years out
3. have a plan in place for dealing with the failure to secure a new library and ask for Town Meeting action on this plan

Trustees commented on various aspects of the problem. Trustee Phillips checked the Dustin Trust and reported that money not used by 2015 for a new library could be used for reconstruction, rehabilitation, expansion, or renovation of the Children's room or for Children's programs. Trustee Alligood noted the minimal amount needed for new library to serve all the citizens of Belmont in the light of other projects. Trustee Carthy explained that the real authority of the town resides in Town Meeting; their knowledge of the problem and support is crucial. Trustee Sullivan realistically presented the options. Trustee Keenan added that the elevator

situation cannot continue – breaking down, impossibility of finding replacement parts, difficulties created, and that a new elevator must be addressed as the library will be in the present building for several years at minimum.

Facilities Consolidation

The meeting of the Town Administrator and the Superintendent of Schools (the present board of the new Facilities Consolidation Committee to be joined by a yet-to-be-named Director of Facilities) is scheduled for July 31st. The library MUST be represented on this board if the trustees are to give up control of the building and its budget.

New Business

Capital Budget Prioritization Tool

This survey created by the Capital Budget Committee is to be completed by the Library Director.

Director's Report

Ms. Connors reviewed the usage figures; the library was open for one additional day in June 2012. July, to date, has been very busy with the Bingo book challenge for adults among other activities. \$37K was returned to the town at the end of the fiscal year; this amount had two sources: the library had been advised to increase its budget for natural gas and electricity and following a retirement, a replacement hire was at a lower salary level.

The Friends of the Library have committed significant funds to the library over the next two years for public relations work.

August 20 was set as a tentative meeting date should one be needed.

September 23 – a Monday – at 6 p.m. will be the next trustees meeting as a planning meeting to consider options – make the building as useable as possible, do minimal repairs, choose a middle ground. The question of grants, individual funding, parking, and related issues will be on the table. Director Connors added that outreach to committees in town is an important component as the library goes forward.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. on a motion by Chair Lowrie seconded by Trustee Phillips.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary E. Keenan, secretary

Exhibits:

Agenda July 16, 2013

Minutes June 11, 2013

Major Capital Projects – Criteria and Priorities

Activity Report June 2013

Expenditures June 2013