

Chair Matt Lowrie called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. Present were Trustees Mark Carthy, Mary Keenan, Sarah Phillips, Matt Sullivan, and Director Maureen Conners. Trustee Elaine Alligood was absent. Government Structure Review Committee chair Paul Solomon and members Ralph Jones, Anne Marie Mahoney, Robert McLaughlin, and Becky Vose attended the meeting.

The minutes for the meeting of February 19, 2013 were unanimously approved on a motion by Trustee Sullivan, seconded by Trustee Phillips.

**Government Restructure Review Committee** – Dr. Solomon called this committee to order. This committee was formed in the spring of 2008 with the goal of strengthening the role of the Town Administrator (TA) and making town government more efficient. This special act will go to Town Meeting and after approval by Town Meeting, to the General Court.

Dr. Solomon explained that Section 3 concerns appointments by the Town Administrator – “Appointments of department heads and other personnel under the jurisdiction of any other elected board shall be made with the advice and consent of that board.” Mr. McLaughlin noted that this fits the overall plan to make the TA the chief administrator officer of the Town. Dr. Solomon hopes that the trustees would support this.

Trustee Keenan expressed the view that in a democracy, trustees are elected to carry out stated duties and sees no need to change the present system. Mr. McLaughlin emphasized that the trustees would have “advice and consent” on the appointment of a director. Trustee Phillips noted that this is a change. Chair Lowrie asked what by-law the statute would change. Trustee Carthy emphasized the quality of the day-to-day running of the library. Mr. McLaughlin explained that this is an attempt to break down the silos around various departments in town. Chair Lowrie thanked the Committee; his concern is that moving responsibilities from an elected body is not a positive move. This is an important principle: the trustees are responsible for the library. Dr. Solomon does not see how the changes suggested impede the role of the trustees. Chair Lowrie asked that a problem be identified that the trustees have failed to act upon.

The Building Facilities Consolidation Committee was discussed with concern that the library rejected this plan. Chair Lowrie clarified that the library trustees still have an open-ended view of this discussion. Ms. Vose asked if a Memorandum of Understanding that would clarify this issue would be of value. Trustee Keenan’s understanding of this is that TA Kale is preparing an amendment to the Facilities Consolidation agreement to answer specific library concerns.

Dr. Solomon said that the Government Structure Review committee had consulted with previous town officials and library trustee chair in 2008-09 on government structure when the issue of appointed rather than elected trustees was under discussion. The Government Structure Review Committee would appreciate the

support of the trustees. Chair Lowrie summarized his position: valuing elected bodies is of the essence.

### **Old Business**

FY14 Budget – Director Conners, Trustees Keenan and Phillips reported on the Warrant Sub-committee, Capital Budget Committee, and Warrant Committee meetings.

Trust Funds will be discussed at a future meeting.

### **New Business**

Warrant Article – This will be for the May 29 session of Town Meeting.

Trustee Phillips discussed the idea of the Brooklyn Plan in which the town gives a developer a library building in return for first floor space in the new development (condos, offices, etc).

Chair Lowrie will confer with the Board of Selectmen regarding presenting library information at the special precinct meetings that will be held on April 8<sup>th</sup> and April 11<sup>th</sup>.

ITAC representative – The library needs to appoint a representative to this committee. Chair Lowrie will ask one candidate about this opening before further asks are made.

Friends Report – Trustee Phillips reported on the final report on Books in Bloom. The Friends will have a booth at Town Day. Membership renewals are coming in. There will be a “Friendraiser” on Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Meeting – BOS – School Committee – Library Trustees April 8<sup>th</sup> Monday 8 AM  
Meeting - April 16<sup>th</sup> 7:30 p.m. Trustee Carthy has invited Selectman Rojas to attend.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m. with a unanimous vote on a motion by Trustee Carthy, seconded by Trustee Sullivan.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary E. Keenan, secretary

### Exhibits:

Agenda for meeting March 26, 2013

Minutes for meeting February 19, 2013

Chapter\_\_ An Act Establishing the Position of Town Administrator in the Town of Belmont

Town of Belmont – Upcoming BOS meetings

Director’s Report

Activity Report February 2013

Trust Funds FY2012 Activity FY13 Funds spent

Belmont Memorial Library What’s Up?