



## Trustees of The Mary E. Bartlett Memorial Library



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Liz McConnell, Chair Melody Santos, Treasurer Tom Walker, Secretary Melissa Bertoulin Megan Schneider

### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 10, 2023

Trustees attending: Liz McConnell, Tom Walker, Melody Santos, Melissa Bertoulin, Megan Schneider

From the Library: Janice Wiers - Library Director, Kiki Donis-Wahl - Assistant Director/ Youth Librarian

From the Public: Chris Carmody, Tracy Descoteaux, Jessica Balukas

Liz McConnell called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

On a motion from Melody, with a second by Megan the 5/08/2023 meeting minutes were unanimously accepted. Liz - aye, Melissa - aye, Tom - aye, Kristen - aye, Megan - aye.

On a motion from Melody, with a second by Megan the 6/06/2023 meeting minutes were unanimously accepted. Liz - aye, Melissa - aye, Tom - aye, Kristen - aye, Megan - aye.

On a motion from Melody, with a second by Megan the 5/08/2023 Non-public meeting minutes were unanimously accepted. Liz - aye, Melissa - aye, Tom - aye, Kristen - aye, Megan - aye.

On a motion from Melody, with a second by Megan the 6/06/2023 Non-public meeting minutes were unanimously accepted. Liz - aye, Melissa - aye, Tom - aye, Kristen - aye, Megan - aye.

#### **Directors Report:**

Janice submitted her Director's Report to the trustees in advance of the meeting as usual for review. Also included were the Assistant Director's Report, Check Register, Profit and Loss Statement, Salaries Report. Website traffic, and social media followers continue to grow. There were 1256 in-person visits this month and 0 patrons requesting curbside pick up. Janice suggested keeping curbside pick up as an option for now. There were 12 new library card holders added, 12 adults and no children. 131 books and 97 other media were added to the collection this month. There was a 12.6% increase in library visits over this month last year. Meeting room use is up with 12 requests for use this month. Liz, Melissa, Melody, and Janice attended the NHLTA Spring Conference. Janice was a presenter for a program entitled Small Libraries Unite for Justice. Janice is looking at SIP planning for interior and exterior painting and a possible elevator. Janice and Liz met with amphitheater donors and possible grant providers this month. 14 of the 200 raffle tickets to benefit the amphitheater have been sold. First prize will be a week's stay in Orlando, Florida valued at \$2000. Second place is a Best of Brentwood package of gift certificates and prizes from local businesses

valued at \$1000. Third place is legal services from BKW Law valued at \$800. Tickets are available for purchase at the library for \$100, some families are chipping in on tickets and will split any winnings. A teen library patron has volunteered to put on STEAM activities for kids this summer. Janice and Kiki went to Swasey School to talk about the Summer Reading Program. Janice mentioned that the Brookline and New Boston libraries have had visits from people videotaping and asking leading questions. She said that these groups are concerned about their 1st amendment rights and she has discussed with our library staff how to handle such events in a professional manner.

#### **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/ YOUTH SERVICES LIBRARIAN REPORT:**

The most recent storytime wrapped at the end of May. The Summer Reading Program is off to a great start. The Mr. Erin event had 80 participants. The BJ Hickman event put on in conjunction with the Rec Department had 115 participants. Kiki said both events were fun and lively and she thanked the Friends' group for funding them. We are on track to beat last year's SRP totals.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

There was nothing new to report.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Jessica Balukas asked for an update on amphitheater fundraising. Liz said that we are close to getting \$100,000 from a private donor, we are getting \$5000 from the Gove Group, we will get \$20,000 from Raffle Ticket sales, the Friends' group is donating \$2500, the GoFundMe page is up to \$7000, and there are some other donations in the works.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

The Select Board raised the question about safety fencing around the amphitheater. Liz and Janice got a quote for \$3000 to just surround the area, but that would make the basement unavailable for use. To fence that outer area while still providing basement access would cost \$6000. The Library does not have the funds to cover this, Janice will ask the Select Board at their next meeting if the town can fund this.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

On August 31, 2023 at 6:00 PM the library will host a Braver Angels program. The goal of the program is to help bridge the partisan divide between blue and red voters and strengthen our democracy. Janice formally recognized our newest trustee alternate Leann Kane. She also congratulated Kristen Goodrich and Sue Lunn for continuing another year as alternates.

Chris Carmody delivered the Friends of the MEB Library yearly president's report. Chris gave a great overview of the hard work and dedication the group and its 14 volunteers do for the library. Through various fundraising activities they fund many great programs and activities that directly benefit the library and town residents. Some of these include funding two sets of Great Stone Face Books, monthly activity bags, the Summer Reading Program, museum passes, the many programs that the library hosts, and this year they purchased and assembled 12 new bookshelves. They work tirelessly to promote the library mission to the community.

Liz adjourned the meeting at 7:48 PM.

**Next meeting:** Monday, August 14, 2023 at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Tom Walker - Board Secretary