

FLETT ROOM, BELMONT MEMORIAL LIBRARY
BELMONT, MASSACHUSETTS

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

APRIL 11, 2006

The meeting was called to order by newly elected Chairman Hal Shubin at 7:50 pm. Present were Trustees Elaine Alligood, Mary Keenan, Lawrence McCormick, Jil Westcott, Heli Tomford, Director Maureen Connors, and LWV observer Hal Shubin Audrey Lenk.

State Aid: In view of the override failure discussion centered on use of State Aid to cover staffing for summer Saturdays and winter Sundays. It was noted that Bedford used these funds for weekend opening so the trustees decided to review how neighboring towns handle the use of State Aid for weekend hours staffing.

Hal Shubin, Chairman, presented the proposal to develop a trustee's web site that to be part of the BPL website. The trustees agreed to Hal developing an action plan for a password protected area that the trustees will use to access and store trustee related documents and resources.

Old Business: At 8:00 pm, Director Connors reported on Staff Day plans. Staff Day will take place on May 22, 2006 with the library closing for most of the day: 9:00 am until 6:00 pm. It will open to the public at 6:00 pm and remain open until 9:00 pm. Specific suggested topics include merchandizing the library; with a [133974331CybraryN](#) 133974331Hal Shubin training session scheduled for the afternoon. Cross training staff to generate fresh ideas about redesigning new perspectives is another possibility. The BLF will be asked to give an overview of the current status of building plans and activities. Director Connors reported that the new digital camera is here and may be used by the BOT. Trustees voted to approve May 22, 2006 as Belmont Public Library Staff Day. Chair, Hal Shubin volunteered to attend a portion of the day to convey the Trustees appreciation for the great work by the BPL staff.

The trustees discussed possible dates for honoring former Trustee Dreyer for her trustee work, possibly in early July or late June. She is being honored by the Friends on June 1st. It was decided to ask her for her preferred date(s).

Elevator Update: Director Connors reported on the upcoming elevator work in the main library pointing out that Pat Brusck has okayed the plans. The work is lined up with Alpha Weather Proofing and the Schilling Elevator Company with the participation by an environmental company to assist in appropriate removal of the standing water in the elevator pit. Director Connors expects that it should go smoothly.

Trustee Keenan reported on Friends activities and brought up the upcoming May 20 Town Day book sale. The decision on the exact location for the sale to take place

will be determined soon. Mary displayed the new Friends promotion piece, a lovely denim cloth book bag to sell for \$20.00. A new Friends brochure is also in development and has a lively upbeat quality promoting the new building. Mary mentioned the Friends were considering a 'One book–One Community' program which encourages the entire town to read and discuss the same book. Also noted was the newly published book by Belmont born author, Sebastian Junger. The Friends will try to organize an event celebrating the book to stimulate fundraising for the new building.

Trustee Westcott discussed the BLF function on April 9, 2006. Trustees shared thoughts on the event and possible future events. Discussion about naming opportunities followed with Trustees Tomford and Shubin agreeing to discuss and research other libraries use of this strategy to assist fundraising.

Director Connors passed out a draft of the Director's evaluation form to be completed by the trustees via email and returned to Chair Shubin by May 2 in time for discussion at the May 16 trustees meeting.

Trustees Keenan and Tomford presented their research on potential nominees for the two BPL representatives on the BLF Board of Directors. Discussion centered on developing a process for this selection and trustees agreed to identify additional names for the next Trustees meeting on May 16, 2006.

Trustee Westcott discussed the rekindling by Selectmen Firenze of the "cluster concept" of selling the BPL building and constructing the new library across Concord Ave. She asked Director Connors to put together some numbers on how much might be saved by these building plan changes.

Director's Report: Director Connors reported on the town tax bills 133974421 check off box 133974421 Hal Shubin by saying that Town Treasurer Floyd Carman indicated that the box concept was not generating more revenue over time but rather less. Trustees agreed to move ahead with it since it takes a year to accomplish. The request by the Council on Aging Hal Shubin for a specific pickup place brings up privacy issues so further thinking is necessary to develop a solution for COA.

Director Connors presented emails from neighbors in the Benton area about the upcoming closing of the Benton Library. This is a small group who want to keep Benton open. Usage is only about 2% of Main Library usage. Apparently a petition is under development. Trustees discussed various options and budget impacts to keeping Benton open and agreed to develop a process for making this decision.

Trustee Tomford described a conversation she had with Ann Paulsen about the current two bills for library construction funding at the State House which could affect the BPL's position on the funding list. Representative Paulsen wanted guidance from Tomford as to how to vote for these bills, and the trustees agreed that Rep. Paulsen should vote in favor of funding the appropriations.

Minutes of March 28, 2006 were approved Hal Shubin.

NEXT MEETING --- TUESDAY --- MAY 16, 2006 at 7:30 in the Flett Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine C. Alligood, Secretary