

FLETT ROOM, BELMONT MEMORIAL LIBRARY
BELMONT, MASSACHUSETTS

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES March 8, 2007

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Shubin at 7:37 p.m. Present were Trustees Elaine Alligood, Mary Keenan, Matt Lowrie, Jil Westcott, Heli Tomford, and Director Maureen Conners. Guests present: Virginia Jordan, Martha Gallagher (President Belmont Library Foundation).

Old Business:

1. Chair Shubin reported on upcoming Saturday Town budget meetings and the likelihood is that Selectman Firenze will be extending the meeting times.

2. Trustee Tomford reported the date for the party to honor Larry McCormick for his work as Trustee; March 22, 2007, 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

3. Trustee Westcott reported on her work on the Library's revolving account set up. Trustees Lowrie and Westcott will work with Barbara Hagg, Town Accountant, to add the Library to the town departments requesting revolving accounts at April Town meeting.

4. Meeting Reports:

a. Chair Shubin discussed his meeting with George Comeau of the Mass Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC). The MBLC is willing to come and discuss the process and help in whatever way they can to support the vote at Town Meeting. Director Comeau said the MBLC expects a vote to raise the grant amount by 15% to reflect increasing construction costs will be successful. .

b. Selectman Firenze set up a new group, the Capital Projects Planning Group (CPPG) to look at Town buildings needing replacement and investigate locales or existing buildings best fitting their needs. The goal is to make most effective use of town properties, funds, and locations. The CPPG will report back on October 1st, 2007. At the March 19th meeting of the CPPG Chair Shubin will have 5-7 minutes to present information about the Library building status, needs and issues. The Trustees agreed to send the group a copy of the past five Library location feasibility studies.

c. Chair Shubin reported that the Board of Trustees can discuss potential warrant article wording with Tom Younger in advance of the March 26th meeting.

5. Candidate Dan LeClerc will be holding meetings to collect information, raise questions, meet people and gather an understanding of citizens' opinions and interests prior to the election.

6. Chair of the Warrant Committee, Ralph Jones, spoke with Hal and expressed his encouragement for the Trustees to move the project forward using the Library's state funds to support the new building process.

7. The Trustees spent some time discussing the various possible strategic approaches to promoting support for a building committee. Much discussion ensued over the various arguments and supporting evidence for going forward and how best to present these issues to Town Meeting in the clearest manner possible. Volunteers were recruited to attend coffees for Town Meeting members to ask and answer questions about the need for a building committee.

8. Trustee Lowrie made the point that the current date of 2017 as the point for replacing the current 1965 era library building will significantly increase the current estimate for funds needed from 10 million to more than 30 million.

Committee Reports:

The next Trustees Meeting will take place in the Flett Room at the Main Library Building, at 7:30 on March 20, 2007.

The Meeting adjourned at: 10:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Catherine Alligood
Secretary