

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES APRIL 19, 2011
BELMONT PUBLIC LIBRARY, BELMONT, MASSACHUSETTS

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m. by Chair Matt Lowrie in the Flett Room. Present were Trustees Elaine Alligood, Mark Carthy, Mary Keenan, Sarah Phillips, and Matt Sullivan and Director Maureen Connors.

The minutes for the Annual Meeting and the regular meeting of the Trustees on April 12th were approved unanimously on a motion by Trustee Phillips, seconded by Trustee Alligood.

New Business:

Children's librarian Deborah Foley has submitted her resignation. Director Connors will seek to post this important position; this was voted on a motion by Trustee Keenan, seconded by Trustee Sullivan and approved unanimously.

When the post-Town Meeting agenda for the Trustees is planned, there are four items Trustee Keenan would like placed on it:

- evaluation of the Director (done annually but missed in 2010),
- consideration of space and shuffling some furniture; it was suggested that others view the seating area in new fiction section at the Concord Public Library,
- completion of the work of the Policy Committee, including a look at security policies of other libraries,
- work for the library's role on the Town Facilities Consolidation Committee.

Chair Lowrie added time would be given at the next meeting to continue his program of making the library work better for patrons, staff, and trustees.

Trustee Carthy asked that the integration of volunteers be added to the list.

Director Connors will request additional information on the request by the Woodland Garden group of the Belmont Garden Club for placing boulders at the edge of the curbing to prevent vehicular access to the Garden.

Action item: Director Connors will contact Linda Wolfe regarding this.

On the topic of parking, Trustee Carthy suggested "15 minute parking spaces" and mother/small child spaces.

Old Business: Preparation for Town Meeting

Action item: Chair Lowrie will talk with Warrant Committee member Bob Sarno to answer any questions Mr. Sarno, who voted to abstain on this vote at the Warrant Committee meeting, may have about Warrant Article 16.

Trustee Phillips reported on her research on the deeds for Rock Meadow which was funded by the federal government in 1968; baseball was allowed at that time. There is a difference between basic recreation and passive recreation.

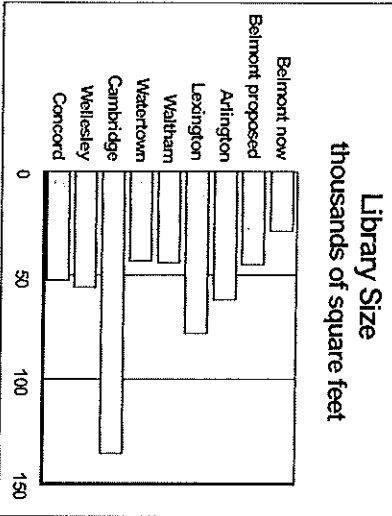
Action item: Trustee Phillips will continue to pursue this information.

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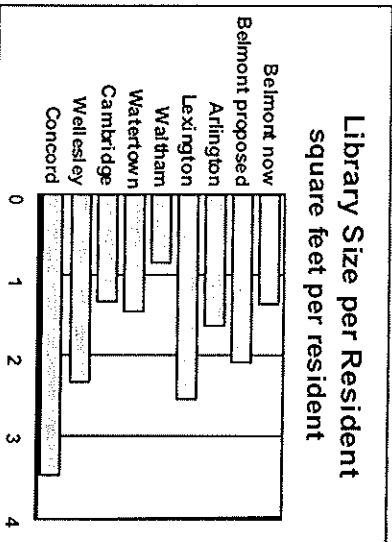
Comparing Libraries

Summer Brown, March 29, 2011

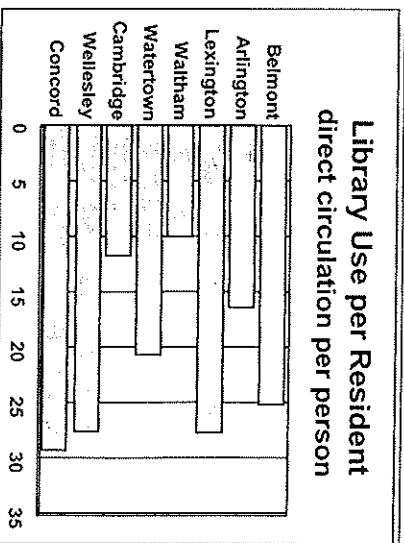
If you are having difficult deciding if Belmont needs a new library, you can look at how our library compares with libraries in the towns that directly surround Belmont.



The first chart shows the size of Belmont's library, the proposed new library, and the libraries on Arlington, Cambridge, Lexington, Waltham, and Watertown. Also shown are the libraries of Wellesley and Concord since their populations and library usage are similar to ours. Belmont's library is the smallest of the batch. However, a reasonable person will object to this comparison because a large town should logically have a larger library than a small town.

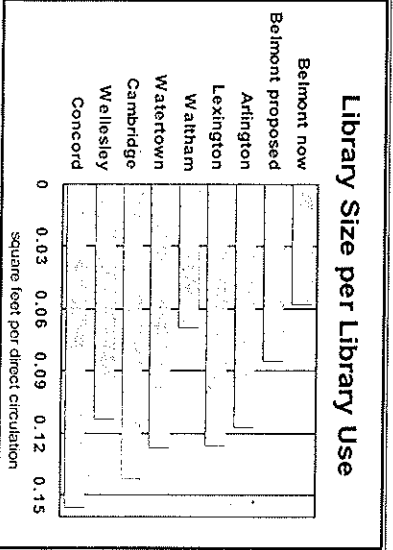


The next chart shows the same libraries compared based on size per resident. The size of Belmont's library now looks reasonable. However, this comparison misses something important: how much a library is used.

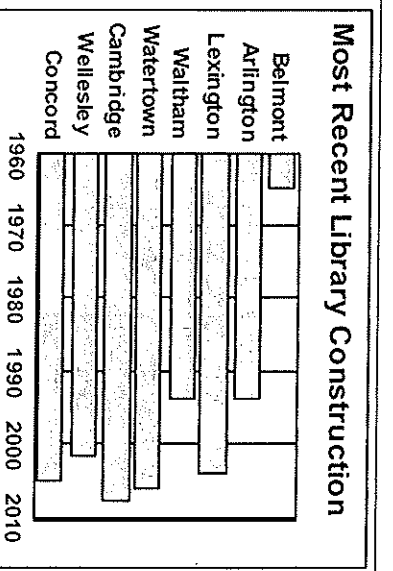


The third chart shows how heavily the residents of the towns use their libraries. Each of us in Belmont takes out, on average, about twenty-five items per year. Direct circulation is the total of the items borrowed by people plus renewals. The heavy use we make of our library explains why Belmont would make good use of a larger library.

The chart on the right shows how the libraries compare based on library size per use. Belmont's library is the smallest by this measure. Even our proposed library looks small. Belmont's proposed library is larger than Watertown by this measure, but still smaller than the rest. Considering that we are lucky if we get a chance to build a new library every fifty years, this chart suggests that Belmont should look ahead and build a larger library than what has been proposed.



The chart on the right shows when the towns last had major library construction. Arlington, Cambridge, Lexington, Waltham, Watertown, Wellesley and Concord have all had major renovations or built new libraries in the last few years. This also suggests that Belmont is due to build a new library.



Note that the academic libraries in Cambridge, Waltham and Wellesley are not considered here.

April, 15, 2011

Dear Maureen,

This is my formal notification that I am resigning from the Belmont Public Library as a Children's Librarian. My last day of employment will be Saturday, May 7, 2011.

I appreciate the opportunities I have been given here. I have truly enjoyed working in Belmont, from working with and learning from the staff, to getting to know the population of Belmont. Everyone has been welcoming and friendly. The library staff, both professional and nonprofessional, are smart, funny and great at what they do. They are truly dedicated to great library service

I am sorry to have to leave after such a short stay but I have been given an opportunity to earn more and since the finances have been very difficult for me at the present I feel I need to accept this new opportunity. I will miss the children at storytime as well as the great readers here.

Thank you for my time in Belmont and I wish you much success in the future.

Sincerely,


Deborah Foley