

Thayer Memorial Library Trustees Meeting
September 28, 2022
Meeting held via Zoom videoconference

Roll Call

Present were:

Emily Rose, Chair
Frank Streeter, Secretary
Ann Frantz
Karen Silverthorn
David Spanagel
Joe Mulé, Director, Ex Officio

Melissa Carlson of the Friends of the Thayer Memorial Library

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm. Chair Rose called the roll of attendees and opened the meeting.

Past Minutes

After reviewing the minutes from the July meeting,

Trustee Spanagel moved to accept the minutes; Trustee Silverthorn seconded the motion, and the motion passed on a 4-0 vote.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held Wednesday, October 12, 2022 at 6:30 PM. The Board's meetings will continue to be held over Zoom until further notice.

Chair's Report:

Chair Rose thanked Vice-Chair Frank MacGrory for his many years of service on the Board and noted with regret that he had retired from the Board effective September 1, 2022.

Secretary Streeter moved to honor Mr. MacGrory by bestowing on him the title of Trustee Emeritus; Trustee Spanagel seconded the motion, and the motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

The Board discussed how to honor him and celebrate this transition, possibly at an event to which all former Trustees would be invited. There are no surviving past Trustees who did not serve with Mr. MacGrory, he having joined the Board in the early 1970's when Constance V.R. Dexter was Chair.

After a brief discussion about the need to reorganize the Board after the resignation of the Vice-Chair,

Secretary Streeter moved to appoint Trustee Spanagel as Vice Chair, and he agreed to accept the position; Trustee Frantz seconded the motion, and the motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

This was followed by a discussion of the procedures for resignation, which need to be set out in the bylaws for future reference. The Board then discussed the process for appointing a replacement Trustee. Director Mulé will check with the select Board about the Board being able to speak with applicants and will report back. The Board set the deadline for applications as October 11 so applicants can be discussed at the Board's meeting on the 12th. The plan is for a joint meeting with the Select Board on October 17 to make an appointment. The position will be posted on the Library's website and has been up on the Town website since September 27.

After a discussion of Director Mulé's proposal to codify the Library's temporary fine-free policy,

Secretary Streeter moved to codify the Library's current temporary fine-free policy; Trustee Spanagel seconded the motion, and the motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

Outreach and Fundraising:

Trustee Spanagel presented the TML Fundraising and Advocacy Report. He noted that the amount of money raised was unchanged since last month's report, but he is expecting a modest additional amount from pledges. Melissa Carlson of the Friends of the Thayer Memorial Library reported on the Friends upcoming book sale. It will be open for two weekends, September 30 and October 7. The Board discussed CPA grants and possible requests.

Strategic Planning:

Trustee Silverthorn updated the Board on the status of the Library's strategic planning work. She is hoping to present a draft of the plan to the Board at its December meeting.

Memorial School Reuse Committee:

Trustee Frantz reported on the Committee's status and work in progress.

Director's Report:

Director Mulé is working on his reports to MLBC. The Library's finances seem to be ok, but the Town's spending freeze brought the Library very close to its MAR. Director Mulé explained the consequences of the Library not meeting its MAR. He explained that the Town is projecting a level services budget for FY23. In connection with this he discussed his concerns about the Library's finances in the current inflationary environment. He reviewed various capital items in the Library's budget requests, including an EV charging station for the Library's parking lot.

Feasibility Study Report:

Director Mulé reported that the Library is now interviewing candidates. He had to post

the RFP twice but now has two good candidates. He noted that time is tight for getting the study done in time for the Annual Town Meeting in May.

Director Mulé is concerned that the previous cost estimates the Library received for the work to be done were very low, especially in this current inflationary period. FinComm member Dick Trussell emphasized that the Library should apply for every grant and/or allocation it might possibly qualify for, including ARPA funds from the FinComm and CPA funds from the CPA Committee. Director Mulé emphasized the Library's excellent working relationship with the Finance Committee and how much he appreciates their efforts on behalf of the Library and the Town.

New Business:

Trustee Frantz asked if the Library had been receiving any requests to ban or remove books or other media. She reported that it had been happening in the Bolton schools. Director Mulé noted that removal requests have been made to the Library and he explained the process for addressing those requests. The Board discussed this issue in some depth.

Trustee Silverthorn announced that Library volunteer Joy Peach had died and gave details of her service.

Trustee Spanagel reported on the staff and volunteer ice cream event at Rota Spring Farms the previous Friday. He said it had been a lovely event, if a bit cold.

Adjournment:

There being no further business for the Board to consider,

Secretary Streeter moved to adjourn; Trustee Frantz seconded the motion, and the motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

The Board adjourned and the Zoom meeting ended at 8:03 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frank S. Streeter, Secretary

List of Documents:

Agenda

Chair's Report

Director's Report

TML Fundraising and Advocacy Report