

Thayer Memorial Library Trustees Meeting

January 11, 2023

Meeting held via Zoom videoconference

Roll Call

Present were:

Emily Rose, Chair  
David Spanagel, Vice Chair  
Frank Streeter, Secretary  
Ann Frantz  
Karen Silverthorn  
Adam Zand (absent)  
Joe Mulé, Director, Ex Officio

Melissa Carlson, President of the Friends of the Thayer Memorial Library  
Pierre Delecto

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

Past Minutes

None

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at 6:30 PM. The Board's meetings will continue to be held over Zoom until further notice.

Chair's Report:

Chair Rose announced that Legislative Day will be on March 15 at the Statehouse. This is an opportunity for trustees to meet with their legislators and lobby for the good of libraries.

Director Mulé is meeting with Doug Manley and other specialists to assess building maintenance and upkeep. Lynne Spencer of Spencer Preservation Group will be coming to the Library to interview staff about building usage and operations. The RFP for windows #2 and #3 in the Children's Room is due Friday.

Chair Rose asked Trustee Frantz about the Memorial School Reuse Committee (MSRC) and Trustee Franz give an update on the committee's progress and their possible plans for the site. She reported that the MSRC renovation estimate was about \$950,000 and that the town had not allocated any funds for it. The Board discussed finances relating to this project and the Library.

Advocacy and Fundraising:

Trustee Spanagel reported the Committee met on December 27 and their current bank balance for the windows project is \$26,861.74. He noted that they received a recent \$200 donation without any additional solicitation.

The Library will be hosting a legislative breakfast on Friday, February 17 from 0800 to 0930 at the Library. Trustee Spanagel and Friends President Melissa Carlson are coordinating the event. The Friends of the Library will arrange catering and decoration. The Board discussed MBLC's budget line items relating to this sort of advocacy. Secretary Streeter suggested advocating for continued remote meetings under open meeting law requirements. Chair Rose again reminded the Board about Legislative Day at the Statehouse in Boston on March 15.

#### Strategic Planning:

Director Mulé gave an update on the strategic planning process and schedule. All the data has been gathered so it is a matter of assembling the report.

#### Director's Report:

Director Mulé gave an update on the statue restoration project. He received one quote and is waiting on a second one. Secretary Streeter discussed a visit by Clayton Austin of Boston Ornament and his assessment of the damage to the statues and needed repairs. Trustee Frantz asked about where the statues should be relocated. Director Mulé will be meeting with Lancaster Building Inspector Brian Gingras about the alcoves in the rotunda to see if they are strong enough to support the weight of the statues. The Board discussed the history of previous repairs to the statues, which were more extensive than was immediately obvious.

The Board discussed the Library's holdings of Nourse on Marvin and the various versions available. There has not been much research on the several annotated volumes and the differences between them. Director Mulé reported that several Lunenburg High School honor students are transcribing the handwritten annotations from the Nourse files. Director Mulé noted how glad he was that the Library has a digitized version of all five volumes of Nourse's notes, so the students can work remotely. If this pilot project goes well Director Mulé will talk with Nashoba and other high schools about offering this as a National Honor Society volunteer project.

#### New Business:

Trustee Spanagel reminded that the Board that Library Giving Week is the first week of April and encouraged the Library to have an event. Chair Rose reviewed upcoming dates and events concerning the Library.

Trustee Frantz is starting a 10-week introduction to writing class for the public, which will be free and feature visiting lecturers. Director Mulé noted that Trustee Frantz worked with the Seven Bridge Writers Group to help them decide on their future. He was very pleased to note that Trustee Frantz will be holding a series of new writing classes.

Trustee Silverthorn announced that the CPA committee will start reviewing applications next week and making recommendations. They have received five applications so far. Friends President Carlson asked about the grant application process and Trustee Silverthorn clarified the process. Trustee Silverthorn reminded the Board of the upcoming 350th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026 and that it should begin planning for those celebrations now.

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 7:59 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frank S. Streeter, Secretary

List of Documents:

Agenda

Chair's Report

Director's Report

TML Fundraising and Advocacy Report