

Thayer Memorial Library Trustees Meeting  
July 12, 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  
Joe Mulé, Director, Ex Officio

Rachel Rosengard, Assistant Director  
Melissa Carlson, President of the Friends of the Thayer Memorial Library  
Lynne Spencer, Doug Manley and Amy Jamison of Spencer Preservation Group

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 September 13, 2023 at 6:30 PM. The Board's meetings will continue to be held over Zoom until further notice.

Appearances:

The meeting opened with a presentation by Lynne Spencer of Spencer Preservation Group about the upcoming work to be done at the Library. She gave a brief history of the project and introduced her team, Amy Jamison and Doug Manley. Ms. Jamison gave a slide presentation about the physical history of the Library and its current challenges. Mr. Manley gave an engineering report discussing the Library's current systems.

The goals for the project are to upgrade the various systems in the Library to current standards and to repair the building envelope. In addition the project will include updating the interior environment of the Library to better serve current patron uses.

Ms. Spencer detailed the various steps involved and introduced the work for the project, which includes site visits to other libraries with the goal of informing a needs assessment for the Thayer Memorial Library. She described the Library as "Lancaster's living room" as it is seen as a gathering space. The plans include adding a separate space dedicated to young adults and expanded spaces for children. Items from the museum's collection will be displayed throughout the Library instead of being locked away where they are difficult to view.

The plan calls for many existing spaces in the Library to be re-purposed. For instance, the reference room will stop being for just for reference. The Dexter Room will be improved with a projection wall and there will be a coffee bar somewhere in the Library. Ms. Spencer reviewed the design of each floor and showed all of the proposed updates to each. The second floor and the basement will be set up for quieter uses while the first floor will be relatively noisy. The goal is to have the Thayer Memorial Library as a destination for a wide variety of patrons.

The Board discussed various ideas from this proposal. Vice-Chair Spanagel noted that the Board was in favor of many of the ideas presented, but still needs the details and costs. Ms. Spencer explained that is the next step in the project.

#### Chair's Report:

Chair Rose presented Director Mulé's performance evaluation. The Board reviewed and agreed with it as presented. All were in favor of rating Director Mulé as "awesome". After a brief discussion,

**Vice-Chair Spanagel moved to accept Director Mulé's performance review; Trustee Zand seconded the motion, and the motion passed on a 6-0 vote.**

Director Mulé thanked the Board and gave a great deal of credit to his staff.

#### Memorial School Reuse Committee:

There was no update on the Memorial School Reuse Committee but the Board discussed their previous report and what next steps might be taken by the Select Board.

#### Advocacy and Fundraising:

The fundraising subcommittee met on June 27. Vice-Chair Spanagel noted that the Town has about \$300,000 presently dedicated to the Library. That is sufficient to fix all of the windows in the building, not just those in the Children's Room. This money should also cover a necessary few roof repairs.

#### Policy:

The Board discussed the revised meeting room policy and made some minor changes. There was a discussion of discrimination and how best to word that in the policy. A vote was put off until the Board's September meeting.

#### Director's Report:

Director Mulé gave a quick hiring update. He feels he has two good hires and hopes they accept their offers.

#### Friends of the Library:

Friends of the Library President Melissa Carlson reported that the Friends had made over \$1000 from the children's book sale, which is their best result ever. Reviews from the

public were that it was an excellent event, and Vice-Chair Spanagel was great at passing out the donated ice cream.

Trustee Silverthorn commented that the first concert on the Town Green was very good . President Carlson reported that over 100 people attended the first concert and over 70 attended the second concert, which had a younger crowd.

New Business:

Trustee Franz has an article in Worcester living magazine about the Thayer Memorial Library and two others. The board commended her on the article.

Adjournment:

There being no further business for the Board to consider,

**Trustee Frantz moved to adjourn; Secretary Streeter seconded the motion, and the motion passed on a 6-0 vote.**

The Board adjourned and the Zoom meeting ended at 8:11 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frank S. Streeter, Secretary

List of Documents:

Agenda

Chair's Report

Director's Report

TML Fundraising and Advocacy Report