

Trustee Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2009

The October meeting of the Leominster Public Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 5:10 p.m. on Monday, October 13, 2009. In attendance were: Gilbert Tremblay, Chairman; Kathleen Reynolds Daigneault; Nancy Hicks; Carol Millette; Robert Salvatore; Jeanne Zephir; Assistant Director Meredith Foley; and Director Susan Theriault Shelton.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as submitted.

Old Business:

Mrs. Shelton informed the Board that the remediation work to the West Street walkway and ramp is almost complete. Fontaine Brothers still needs to demolish three cement panels adjacent to the church driveway. Mrs. Shelton noted that there have been two unofficial reviews of the work by Jeff Dugan of Mass Office on Disability during the course of the remediation work. It was noted that there had to be some reworking of the front handrails at the last minute. Mrs. Shelton also noted some concern as to whether the re-planting of the shrubs on the steep banking at the curve of the ramp will survive the winter. The fencing is scheduled to be removed, and the West Street entrance reopened on Thursday, October 17th. A formal review by the MA Office of Disability and the Leominster Disability Commission will be scheduled once the work has been reviewed by Beacon Architectural Associates and Ross Associates. Once the work has been confirmed as being compliant, Beacon Architectural Associates will reimburse the City \$59,285.00. Soft costs for project management, legal fees, and required independent testing, remain the responsibility of the City.

Mrs. Shelton noted that the city's DPW relocated the boulder with Leominster Public Library plaque adjacent to the new front walkway. Beacon and Fontaine have done a nice job, and GVC, the site sub-contractor, handled the excavating and landscaping.

Mrs. Shelton informed the Board that she had heard back from Superintendent Binkley, and Leominster has 139 Fitchburg students who are school-choiced into Leominster. Mrs. Shelton also informed the Board that Fitchburg residents who work for the City of Leominster have called inquiring about their borrowing privileges. A discussion ensued regarding exceptions to the current Reciprocal Borrowing Policy, and the Board decided to take no further action at this time.

A handout was distributed outlining the library's work with Associated Grant Makers and the Community Foundation of North Central MA to establish a Grants Resource Network – Leominster. There will be "Train the Trainer" sessions on October 21, 28, and Nov. 4. Five (5) adult services staff members, and five (5) community volunteers will be trained by Martha Moore from Associated Grant Makers. The trainers will then be able to provide researchers with a brief overview of the databases available, help them set-up a good search strategy, and get started on seeking private funding sources. Additionally, special trainers will also be available to help guide nonprofits in their grant writing. The launch of the new Grant Center is scheduled for November 18th at 8 AM at the library. Invitations will be sent to local officials and area non-profit organizations. There will be another series of training sessions for interested individuals from non-profit organizations scheduled for January 13, February 10, and March 10, 2010. It is anticipated that these training sessions will be repeated again in the fall of 2010.

There is grim news on the state level for libraries for FY11. The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners has been directed by the Governor's Office to prepare a budget with a 16% cut from the current fiscal year. The library community has had several hearings, most recently one in Boxboro two weeks ago. Mrs. Shelton indicated that there were recommendations to make cuts in the Talking Book Library, Library Technology (networks), and to the regional library systems. There has been much discussion regarding the possible merger of the regional systems into one or two for the entire state. These regional systems were just expanded several years ago in order to provide better service to their member libraries. The libraries, in-turn, pass on these services to their patrons. It was noted that the regional library systems provide the delivery

service which allows the networks to transport materials from one library to another. This timely service is almost seamless to the public, and they have become very dependent upon it.

New Business:

Mrs. Shelton asked for a Trust fund request of \$50 to cover the registration costs for Nancy Hicks and Carol Millette to attend the MLTA/MFOL joint conference on November 14 at the Worcester Public Library. **A motion was made and unanimously approved to expend \$50 for registration cost for Nancy Hicks and Carol Millette to attend the MLTA/MFOL joint conference on November 14 at the Worcester Public Library.** (KRD/ JZ)

Mrs. Shelton asked the Board to consider allowing her to attend the Public Library Association Conference to be held in Portland, OR, March 23-27, 2010. Mrs. Shelton indicated that the conference focuses on the issues facing public libraries, including topics such as security systems, streamlining library operations, and open source software. Cost for the conference is anticipated to be \$1,300 - \$1,500, and would come from library trust funds. The Board gave Mrs. Shelton a verbal go-ahead, and asked for a budget when available.

Announcements:

The Feldman Celebration was held on October 4th with approximately 400 people attending. Through the generosity of the Feldman family, attendees enjoyed magic, music, exotic animals, balloon art, face painting and refreshments. Additionally, approximately 80 new children's books were added to the collection through the Drs. Martin T. & Geraldine Feldman Book Fund.

A Senior Sing-Along program featuring the music of Cole Porter, George Gershwin, and Irving Berlin will be held on October 25th at 2:00 p.m. This program is made possible through donations received in memory of Nicholas & Marylouise Despo.

The library will host a photography exhibit by Ron Rosenstock through mid-November in the Community Room.

The Clara Lane Memorial Concert featuring flutist Cherie Asgeirsson, performing with her daughter and harpist Greta Asgeirsson, will be held on Sunday, November 15th at 2:00 p.m.. This concert is funded through a donation from the Lane Family.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 9, 2009 at 5:00 P.m. in the library's historic conference room.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith A. Foley
Recording Secretary