

## **Medway Library Trustees**

March 19, 2025

7:00 PM

Zoom Meeting

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Susan Alessandri, Nutan Mathew, Nicole Haberman, Greg Peverill-Conti

**Members Absent:** Lisa Sheehan

#### **Others Present:**

1. Call to order - 7:00
2. Discussion of Open Meeting Law Violation - Ms. Alessandri spoke with the town counsel who advised that the meeting agenda only consist of reviewing the open meeting law violation complaint and to authorize a response. Ms. Alessandri reviewed that the open meeting law was inadvertently violated by Ms. Mathew and herself when they met with Margaret Perkins, director of the library, privately. Ms. Alessandri stated it was not intended as a performance review. Mr. Peverill-Conti stated the one thing he was confused by was that the first point of the complaint stated the meeting was not discussed at the February 11th Trustees meeting, but then in the second point, the complaint references having a discussion at the February 11th regarding meeting with Ms. Perkins individually. Ms. Alessandri stated it was an agenda item on the February 11th agenda. Ms. Alessandri stated that despite not being intentional, their meeting was in violation of the open meeting law. Ms. Mathew reported that she does take responsibility as well for the violation, but noted that the meeting was done in communication with the town. Ms. Alessandri reported that she was given guidance by the town manager on having a private meeting to avoid speaking in public about action items the Trustees felt were not being met. The town manager has apologized for steering the Trustees in the wrong direction. Ms. Alessandri reported the town counsel recommended the Trustees not follow through on what was discussed at the private meeting but make them agenda items for the April Trustees meeting as part of the public meeting. Ms. Haberman asked about providing a written response to the complaint. Ms. Alessandri stated that the response would come from the town counsel. The Trustees were unaware of a requirement for a refresher course on open meeting law rules. In regards to an apology from the Trustees to Ms. Perkins and the patrons, Ms. Alessandri and Ms. Mathew stated they have no problems with apologizing for the meeting. They noted that Ms. Perkins reported to the town manager that the meeting was positive, and they agreed. Ms. Haberman asked if the Trustees will be addressing the complaint at the next meeting. Ms. Alessandri stated she will ask the town counsel, but she believed he said to have an agenda item that states they met to review, discuss, and respond to the

complaint. Ms. Haberman asked who would decide if the action items requested by the person who lodged the complaint are followed. Ms. Alessandri stated she believes it is decided by the Attorney General. The Trustees will wait for guidance after their response is given.

*Mr. Peverill-Conti made a motion for the Trustees to authorize town counsel to respond to the complaint, seconded by Ms. Mathew, approved by all.*

Ms. Alessandri will follow up with the town council this evening.

*Next meeting scheduled for April 1, 2025*