

Medway Library Trustees

May 6, 2025

7:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Susan Alessandri, Nutan Mathew, Nicole Haberman, Lisa Sheehan

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Margaret Perkins - Director, Justin Tucker - Secretary, members of the public, members of the Friends of Medway Public Library, Audrey Snowden - Children's/YA Librarian, Ivanna Aguilar - Technical Services Librarian

1. Call to order - 7:01pm

2. Approval of April 2, 2025 - approved with revisions and April 29, 2025 minutes (excluding Executive Session) - Approved

3. Public Comment (20 minutes) - Sue Rorke 34 Ellis st. - Ms. Rorke stated she has been a library patron for many years. Ms. Rorke commented that thanks to the Friends and library staff, the library is the best it has ever been. Ms. Rorke commented that Ms. Perkins has shown great leadership that has allowed the environment of the library to be a positive one. Ms. Rorke commented on the success and safety of the Makerspace where kids have been able to come and safely learn and be creative. Ms. Rorke expressed concern over the relationship between the Trustees and the Friends of Medway Library. Ms. Rorke expressed her observations of the Library Trustees. Ms. Corinne Fahey - 14 Clark St. - Ms. Fahey stated that Mr. Peverill-Conti's name will remain on the ballot due to his name not being withdrawn in time. Ms. Fahey asked that the Board of Trustees agree that in the event of Mr. Peverill-Conti winning, to allow whichever candidate gets the next most votes to be the winner.

4. New Business (45 minutes)

- **Establishment of Notary Public Services** - Ms. Alessandri expressed how she felt Notary Services could be something offered by the library. Ms. Alessandri discussed with Ms. Aguilar the possibility of her being the Notary. Ms. Aguilar expressed that she does not feel she would be the best option, as her role is not public facing, and because she is still fairly new, she'd like to focus on her job

responsibilities. Ms. Sheehan stated that she agreed it was a good idea, and it should be a full time employee who'd like to do it. Ms. Perkins expressed that she also liked the idea. Ms. Haberman stated that there is a person at Town Hall that has select available hours and perhaps the library offering a Notary on opposite hours of Town Hall could serve the community best.

Ms. Haberman made a motion to start Notary Services at the library, seconded by Ms. Mathew, approved by all 4-0-0.

▪ **Governing bylaw discussion** - The Trustees discussed some of the bylaws that are currently out of date. Ms. Alessandri stated the Trustees should review the bylaws over the next month and discuss changes and edits at the next meeting. Ms. Alessandri expressed that they'd like to discuss the bylaws at the June meeting. The Trustees decided that since a new member will be joining in June, they should wait until they have a full Board to vote on the new bylaws and also give the new member a chance to review them and make changes.

▪ **Privacy Policy discussion** - Ms. Perkins presented some ideas on policy change. Ms. Perkins recommended changing the minimum age of a child that a parent is able to obtain their library records. Ms. Mathew suggested comparing the language of this section of the policy to surrounding towns. The Trustees will revisit the Privacy Policy next month.

▪ **Director's report on Institute of Museum and Library Services Executive Order** - Ms. Perkins stated that the director of the MBLC has clarified that IMLS covers research databases, commonwealth catalogue, e-book funding. Ms. Alessandri asked about the impact on Medway Public Library. Ms. Perkins said the library currently does not have an IMLS grant, so it cannot be taken away. Ms. Perkins stated they were in the process of applying for one previously, but that had to be put on hold. Ms. Perkins stated the library has had an IMLS grant in the past. Ms. Perkins reported that they may limit what can be put into a strategic plan. They may require compliance from the MBLC in several areas: DEI, Truth and Sanity to American History, Gender Ideology, ending radical indoctrination, and Christian ideology. Ms. Perkins stated that the implication was

if these 5 areas are not in compliance, there may be a loss of funding. The MBLC being in compliance could have a trickle down effect on Medway Public Library.

- **Updating library space** - Ms. Mathew reported that a company called Design Lab is willing to attend a Trustee meeting to discuss ideas on maximizing the space of the library. Ms. Mathew stated that the company would be willing to have the discussion free of charge.

Ms. Alessandri made a motion to have Design Lab to attend a future Trustee meeting to discuss the space, seconded by Ms. Sheehan, approved by all 4-0-0.

5. Old Business (20 minutes)

- **Social Media Policy** - The Trustees agreed to table this item and discuss it at the June meeting. Ms. Mathew reported that she has had 4 separate citizens ask her about the changes in tone on the library's social media. Ms. Alessandri reported that she spoke to the Town Counsel, Mark Reich, about the social media post relating to the Trustees meeting to discuss open meeting "violations." Mr. Reich reported the post was factually incorrect. There were open meeting complaints but not violations. Ms. Sheehan reported that a citizen commented to her that there seemed to be high drama on social media involving the library. Ms. Sheehan reported that in her discussion with Ms. Perkins, there had been previous posts about Trustee meetings that were more neutral. Ms. Sheehan shared with Ms. Perkins that she believed it was a good idea to share with the public that there are Trustee meetings, but there should not be any editorialization. Ms. Mathew clarified that the four separate remarks to her were not just about that single post but also about an upcoming webinar event. Ms. Snowden explained where the webinar originated from and how it came to be offered.

- **Coffee Hour** - Ms. Alessandri stated that she and Ms. Snowden had a conversation recently about holding this event. Ms. Alessandri stated the Trustees thought it would be nice for the library to offer coffee and cookies to people who work from home. Ms. Snowden had the idea of attaching the coffee hour to a specific program. Ms. Snowden stated the library does have snacks for

the public and at times serves refreshments. All the food is paid for by the Friends of Medway Public Library. Ms. Snowden suggested creating a program where members of the public can come and meet with the Trustees with food provided by the Friends. Ms. Alessandri expressed how combining it with a meet and greet lunch with a Trustee could serve as a nice compromise between the vision of the Trustees and the Friends.

Ms. Mathew made a motion to institute a coffee hour program involving a Trustee, seconded by Ms. Alessandri, approved by all 4-0-0.

6. Incident Reports (5 minutes) - Ms. Perkins reported there were a couple minor incidents. One patron had been loud and argumentative. The person has been spoken to and Ms. Perkins believes things are starting to get better. Ms. Alessandri spoke with a librarian this evening who mentioned that maybe a policy would help assist with the issue. Ms. Alessandri reported that she noticed the floor sloping upstairs.

7. Budget Report (5 minutes) - Ms. Mathew noticed the electricity is in the red and supplies in the black. Ms. Perkins reported that supplies had been moved to donations and state aid. Ms. Alessandri suggested it may be helpful to have Carol Pratt come in and explain the budget. Ms. Perkins reported that electricity bills have been high due to a spike in the rates.

8. Director's Report (10 minutes)

- **Library Visits Update** - Norwood, Medfield, Foxborough visits and May visits - Ms. Perkins added the opiate overdose rescue kit after visiting the neighboring libraries. The Trustees asked about whether adding murals was something that Ms. Perkins would be interested in after her visits. Ms. Perkins stated that it would be a nice addition. Ms. Perkins stated that Norwood had some nice sensory things, which the Trustees discussed being a good idea to add. Ms. Perkins also observed that Foxborough has study pods that were interesting. Ms. Perkins plans to visit Southboro, Ashland, and Bellingham in May. The Trustees mentioned that the murals and sensory offerings seem like great ideas to prioritize.

▪ **Museum passes** - Ms. Perkins looked into museum passes the library does not currently have. The Trustees felt that the Patriots Hall of Fame was beneficial.

Ms. Alessandri made a motion for the library to purchase passes to the Patriot's Hall of Fame, seconded by Ms. Sheehan, approved by all 4-0-0.

9. Adjournment - 8:58