WMLA Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2015

MLS – Whately

Members present: Mary Anne Antonellis, Betty Johnson, Sue San Soucie, Jan Resnick, Joe Rodio, Eliza Langhans, Eric Poulin

Members absent: John Ramsay, Dan Paquette, Deb Kern, Judy Clini

Guests: Mary Kronholm, Kristie Chadwick

Meeting called to order at 2:10 pm

Sue moved to accept the minutes as submitted, Betty seconded, passed unanimously.

Treasurer report as follows:

$8906.85 in checking

Not cashed $250 to Holland Public Library, a check to Galaxy, a check to Clayton Cheever.

Mary Anne moved to accept the treasurer report, Betty seconded, passed unanimously.

There are a few items that have arrived from Libraries “postage due”.

Shirley has been paying these. WMLA will reimburse when all summer reading prize requests have arrived.

Advocacy: Joe shared an email from Diane Carty discussing a joint meeting of MLA, MBLC and hopefully WMLA in the fall – to discuss and promote library advocacy with the House library caucus. The library caucus meets once or twice a year. As far as we know the library advocacy community has never met with the library caucus. Diane Carty has invited members of the library advocacy community to meet in July before the joint meeting of the library community and the library caucus.

MLA has a legislative committee but no longer has a lobbyist.

Joe shared that he thinks we need to affirm that library aid is local aid. The legislative agenda needs to be more creative and dynamic in order to attract attention from the legislators.

Jan suggested asking to meet with Steve Kulik and Stan Rosenberg and ask them what we can do to improve advocacy efforts.

Our postcard campaign from a couple of years ago was effective.

Libraries need to do a better job of promoting their services.

Visit from Kristie Chadwick, Small Library Advisor, MLS.

Another small library forum in September, 23rd is being planned. It will have different speakers and format than last year’s forum. Small libraries are towns with population under 10,000. Opportunity for small libraries to network across the state.

We encouraged Kristie to focus on more face to face, skill based workshops. We discussed lack of high speed internet. We discussed isolation and lack of tech literacy. More focus on hands-on, less on webinars. Offer opportunities for people to be together for webinars with a facilitator who can answer questions.

Kristie has been visiting small libraries at a rate of 1-2 per month.

MLS does visit new directors.

Kristie is interested in knowing other topics that need to be addressed.

The success of a small library round table in Colrain a few years ago was discussed.

There are 77 libraries in the four western counties in towns with populations under 2,000.

Joe proposed creating a WMLA welcome wagon. We can explain we are advocates for western mass, and we can help connect you to other librarians who can help you with the basics.

MHEC has a vendor’s expo in Sturbridge in September. Joe suggested going because there are many vendors who have items libraries use.

MLS gets money from all MHEC sales. Betty will find more info about it. MLS uses the funds for special projects.

Next meeting is July 23rd – to assemble the summer reading incentives.

Mary Anne will bring packing tape.

MLS west – building sale passed town meeting.

Building committee and Select board need to meet again.

A building inspection needs to be completed.

MLS is waiting for a signed purchase and sale agreement – will keep it off the market until August to allow time for this.

The last meeting we have booked at MLS is in September. We will be able to meet in the new MLS west facility when it is found.

Travel to new western office should be easy, predictable, centrally located, have adequate parking, be on the 91 corridor, not too far north or south. Parking has been harder to find. WMLA should insist on participation in finding a suitable location. Jan moves that WMLA urge MLS to include WMLA board members in the site selection since we are in the best position to advocate for a site selection appropriate for western mass libraries. WMLA wants MLS to prioritize finding a suitable location so there is little or no lapse in services due to lack of appropriate facility.

Housekeeping – how to keep track of brochures, logo, letterhead, etc. Is there an official WMLA logo?

Can we have a spot on the webpage with the logos that is pass worded that logos can be stored so we can get to it and grab graphic if we need them.

Sue will look in box and ask around about printed items.

Eric will check with printer to see if they still have the artwork.

Jan will contact Western Mass libraries to let them know they can ask for incentives.

Joe will forward to the C/W Directors list.

Jan will contact Yankee Candle.

No August meeting

We need to start thinking about a fall meeting. Possible locations for fall meeting include Williamsburg or Montgomery. Will continue discussion in July.

Meeting adjourned at 11:37.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Antonellis