

Western Massachusetts Library Advocates (WMLA)
Meeting
June 14, 2021
Via Zoom
Minutes – Draft

1. Toni called the meeting to order at 2:03. Toni shared the news of Betty Johnson's daughter, Rhonda Parker, sudden passing. Sympathy cards can be sent to PO Box 28 Colrain, MA 01340-0028. Toni will send a card on our behalf. Betty is a former WMLA president and the board approved by consensus to send a donation in memory of Rhonda.
2. Roll call: Toni Golinski-Foisy, Nora Blake, Lisa Downing, Mike Moran, Wendy Pearson, Jan Resnick, Misha Storm, Anna Lawrence
Absent: Natane Halasz, Lynn Blair, Sharon Sharry, Katherine Umstot, Mary Kronholm
3. May 10, 2021 minutes were approved with minor corrections by Nora and seconded by Mike.
4. Treasurer's Report:
 - Florence Bank Balance on 6/14/2021 - \$6,903.72
 - Last Statement date - 5/28/2021
 - Beginning balance: \$6,803.72
 - Deposits: \$100.00
 - Withdrawals: \$0
 - Ending balance: \$6,903.72
5. Membership Report:
 - May membership report:
 - New members: 0
 - Renewals: 1 (Individual)
 - Donations: 1 x \$25
6. Board Members Update - We have one opening on the board and Nora and Katherine will be terming off the board in October. Nora is happy to reach out to prospects on our behalf if anyone has names to suggest. She is starting to put the slate of officers together and will reach out to Eric Poulin to see if there is a Simmons student that might be interested in serving.
7. MLA Legislative Committee - Mike has been advocating for restored funding for the Center for the Book and if that happens and the rest of the budget lines stay where they are we will be a little bit ahead of where we were last year. Jan said that the proposed budget cut to the Center for the Book has happened before and that funding for the center is not part of law and that might be part of it's vulnerability.

Mike spoke very highly of the MLA conference session with John Chrastka, Executive Director at EveryLibrary which gave very good insights about best practices for advocating. The recording is still available to those who registered.

8. Summer Reading Program - Misha reported that she is doing the distribution of prizes herself. She hopes that all of the prizes are in by the 22nd and she will get them sorted shortly thereafter. The last step will be thanking our donors. We received feedback that we should consider offering prizes for adults in the future.

9. MBLC - The situation in Amherst is continuing and the MBLC's stance is that it is a local issue and the board's plan is to turn over the funds on schedule. Mary is recovering from surgery. Her term on the commission is coming up and work is being done to fill the seat. The board is hoping to diversify and Jan urged us to keep an eye out for potential prospects.

10. Meetings - Toni confirmed that we are allowed to continue to meet online. The zoom meetings have made attendance much easier for many on the board. Toni likes the idea of holding our idea share in person for our annual meeting in October. Jan has received advice that we should include provisions about virtual meetings in our bylaws. Nora will check with Katherine and MaryAnne to track down our latest bylaws so that the board can review this at an upcoming meeting.

Nora will reach out to the Blue Bonnet Diner about hosting us. The annual meeting is also when we vote on a slate of officers. The vice-president position is vacant and we will be seeking a new president to replace Toni. Toni will follow up with an email to the board about interest in these leadership roles.

11. New Business - We reviewed the upcoming meeting dates. Toni thanked Nora for updating the website. Toni invited us to look at other organization's logos and share anything we might like. She asked us to think about whether we want to go into a logo design process. Anna knows of a design firm and will reach out to them on our behalf, <https://samaracollective.com/>.

13. Next meeting - July 12 at 2 PM

14. Adjournment - Toni adjourned us at 3 PM.