

Western Mass Library Advocates

September 19, 2019

Porter Memorial Library, Blandford

Minutes – Draft

Members present: Nora Blake, Katherine Hand, Mary Anne Antonellis, Lynn Coakley, Mary Kronholm, Jan Resnick, Mike Moran, Joe Rodio

Members absent: Eliza Langhans, Andrea Bernard, Tony Golinsky-Foisy, Dan Paquette

Guests: Representative Smitty Pignatelli and John Gould from Senator Hinds' office.

Discussion about the MBLC request for a \$250 million bond for library construction. \$100 million has been promised. That will cover most, but not all, of the libraries currently on the waiting list and does not allow for a future grant round.

The MBLC has also asked for an increase in the current spending cap of \$20 million annually to \$25 million to increase the speed of implementation of projects.

The Governor is going to be in Blandford in a few weeks to discuss broadband. Smitty suggests writing him a letter with these specific asks and handing it to him at that meeting. Mary Anne will prepare the letter and get it to Mary.

Discussion about new Mass Pike exit between exits 3 and 2. Concerns about development can be addressed by zoning.

John Gould recommended having further conversations with Senator Hinds' staff about MBLC budget priorities.

Annual Meeting: Northampton, October 17th, noon. Pizza, screening of the public. Mary Anne will pick up pizza, Katherine will pick up paper goods, name tags, Lynn will bring a sign up list.

MLA's next meeting is Sept. 27th at MLS in Northampton. Discussion about MacMillan's embargo on ebook purchases for libraries. Joe made a motion that WMLA send a letter to MacMillan addressing our concerns about this issue. Katherine seconded it. Motion passed.

MLS is organizing a BPL outreach program at Umass.

Meeting adjourned at 11:42 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Antonellis