

**Western Massachusetts Library Advocates (WMLA)**  
**May 11, 2022**  
**Hybrid- Zoom & In Person at Forbes Library**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Welcome:** Lisa begins the meeting at 3:05pm.

**Roll Call:** Antonia (Toni) Golinski-Foisy, Amanda Loiselle, Lisa Downing, Karen Traub, Lynn Blair, Laurie Mikalunis, Michael Moran, Rebecca Schmidt, Bev Bullock, Karen Wittshirk, Linda Siska, Misha Storm, Jan Resnick, Wendy Pearson.

**Approval of minutes from April 13, 2022-** Motion to approve made by Mike, Toni seconds. Approved.

**Treasurer's Report-** as submitted by Wendy Pearson

**WMLA April 2022 Treasurer's Report**

Florence Bank Balance on 5/11/2022 - \$7,044.73

**Last Statement date - 4/29/2022**

Beginning balance: \$7,020.76

Deposits: \$23.97 (via Square)

Withdrawals: \$0

Ending balance: \$7044.73

**Membership Report-** as reported by Natane Halasz- no new memberships or renewals for April.

**Board Member Updates-** Misha adds that the announcements for the summer reading prize program will be going out later today.

**Huntington Library Budget, with library director Amanda Loiselle and members of their board-**

Lisa sent out a letter that was drafted to the Huntington officials. She was looking to identify other libraries that Huntington patrons often visit to see if they would sign off on the letter. Linda asks the content of the letter. Lisa summarizes the letter in that it supports adequately funding libraries, state certification implications- we are better together. Lisa invites edits. Jan suggests adding Pittsfield to the list of other libraries as well as copying the finance committee and the library on the letter so they can post. Karen W. says she is looking into the legalities of the override and the voting. Jan suggests checking with Rob Favini at the MBLC and also adds to emphasize reciprocal business. Amanda says there is still a level of not understanding that the Huntington library services and reciprocal services could be lost. There is only a short amount of time to get the message across. Jan adds that once you drop out of the program, it takes several

years to get back in. CWMars could go in and change patron cards to “non circulating” patron cards. Karen W. adds that if the building closes and then they try to reopen, then there’s no staff, no statistics, etc. A public hearing will be Monday and a special election on June 4, the town election is on June 6. Huntington was notified the 27th of April this was happening. Karen T. remembers another library that this happened to. Karen W. speaks on the budget. Toni asks if Huntington ever went through a construction project with the constructions program. Lisa would like to get the letter out as soon as possible. Huntington has reached out to their state representative but they haven’t heard back. Jan adds other local libraries can discuss this at their trustees meeting and potentially get letters from those boards. Linda asks about other libraries charging fees for people to use their library and adds they are doing a grassroots community outreach for support. Board members will contact their local libraries. Mike asks if Amanda reached out to MLA. Jan asks if there is a Friends group.

**MLA Legislative Committee-** Mike starts off by saying the status of the state budget was confirmed that the senate ways and means recommended full funding of all budget lines as requested by the MBLC. The only shortfall was for the Center for the Book. They were funded this year at \$300,000- senate recommended level funding but the request was for \$400,000. Mike asked Senator Gobi if she’d be interested in filing an amendment. In debriefing from Library Legislative Day, MLA recommended going forward with an in person day at the state house next year but retain a virtual component. There was a mention of a need to encourage libraries to be sure that they have up to date collection development and reconsideration policies.

**MBLC-** Karen T. states that there was an increase in the library construction program. MBLC met last week. Liz Babbitt is retiring and was wished farewell. Approved the upcoming budget for the Center for the Book. The PR committee of the MBLC met today. There will be a place on the website to update stories of success, etc. The PR committee did a training on inclusive marketing and the committee is looking to see how they can spread that information. Karen T. is also on the MLS subcommittee. Sarah Sogigian went through a DEI audit of the handbook for staff, but made some adjustments. There was a visit by the director of Optima- there are upcoming site visits being offered for anyone interested. Sarah and Rob Favini have been visiting libraries. Sarah says to let her know what’s happening at your library. Shutesbury is working towards their construction grant.

### **MLS Support for Intellectual Freedom Challenges**

1. <https://guides.masslibsystem.org/intellectualfreedom>
2. **MLS offered to speak about implementing a collection policy; updating an existing policy; and talking points for presenting it to your board - with a focus on smaller libraries**

Lisa reached out to Krisi Chadwick, liaison at MLS. She referenced the guide (link posted above), Lisa followed that it’s not always a top priority for small libraries for policy review with so much day to day work to do. How can we support smaller libraries? There is talk of a program that could showcase some policies that could work for smaller libraries and talking points for

presenting to your board. Lisa asks the board for feedback about content and timing. Wendy adds that policies are a priority but sometimes they get pushed down on the list for smaller libraries with a lot of day to day. Lynn adds sooner rather than later, Misha agrees. Misha agrees WMLA should co-sponsor.

**Simmons Student Project-** Lisa reached out to Eric Poulin at Simmons to see if there's a graphic design class at Simmons to structure a logo program that could be beneficial to students. Lisa didn't hear back. Rebecca says she will follow up.

**WMLA Logo-** Lisa says she reached out to Seth Gregory, a graphic design artist, the estimated cost for a logo project would be \$8,000.

**Miscellaneous-** Mike suggests we start thinking ahead about our annual meeting in October- adds that people have missed our idea share breakfast. Can we incorporate this idea share into our annual meeting? Lisa will add to the agenda for next month. Lisa asks if there is a preference for hybrid or zoom meetings? Lisa will send out a poll. Many voice that they would like hybrid options still available.

**Adjournment-** Lisa adjourns at 4:07pm.

**Next meeting: Wednesday, June 8 at 3 PM**