

**Western Massachusetts Library Advocates (WMLA)**  
**June 8, 2022 via Zoom**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Welcome:** Lisa begins the meeting at 3:03pm.

**Roll Call:** Lisa Downing, Rebecca Schmidt, Molly Moss, Karen Traub, Jan Resnick, Lynn Blair, Wendy Pearson, Bev Bullock, Natane Halasz.

**Approval of minutes from May 11, 2022 meeting:** Minutes approved by consensus.

**Treasurer's Report-** as reported by Wendy-

**WMLA May 2022 Treasurer's Report**

Florence Bank Balance on 6/8/2022 - \$7,068.70

06/07/2022	Deposit via Square	\$23.97
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**Last Statement date - 5/31/2022**

Beginning balance: \$7,044.73

Deposits: \$0

Withdrawals: \$0

Ending balance: \$7044.73

**Membership Report:** as reported by Natane- No new memberships or renewals in May. Lisa expresses that there has been minimal new memberships. This will be a long road with the rebranding project, but perhaps a membership drive in the meantime. Wendy suggests attaching a membership drive to an event.

**Board Member Updates:** Lisa updates that Huntington's budget passed for another year. Lisa wrote to director Amanda Loiselle. Shutesbury had one of two votes for their building project. Lynn adds that she is a member of the Pioneer Valley Library Collaborative and plans events for Climate Preparedness Week in September, invites other libraries to join. Lisa suggests sharing to WMLA's Facebook- Lynn will as soon as the group has something together to share like a poster or website. Jan suggests in addition to a fall meeting, that we have some other type of program prepared to share the benefits of membership, etc. in case a fall meeting doesn't come together.

**Alliance for Digital Equity- special guest Molly Moss:** Link:

<https://sites.google.com/view/alliancefordigitalequity/home>. Lisa welcomes Molly Moss. Molly presents on a group that is built around digital equity. They are looking to do coordination with resources with libraries. They have a people first approach. The Jones Library, Springfield, and another library have been involved. Molly invites anyone to the next meeting on Friday. Jan adds that we can remind people that not everyone has access. Molly describes the success of the MBLC hotspot programs. Wendy asks if Berkshire county has its own version- Molly adds that it has been discussed and is more of a "Phase 2" idea.

**MLA Legislative Committee Updates:** Mike was unable to join, but sent an update via email to the group.

**MBLC Updates:** Karen attended the MLA conference. Maura Deedy was a panelist on a presentation on handling material and program challenges. There were two sessions on buildings. James Lonergan says the MBLC is updating the LSTA five year plan. The MBLC wrapped up the ARPA Perkins Accessibility Training series. MBLC welcomed Jennifer Inglis as the new state aid specialist. Commissioners approved grant opportunities for FY 2023. Appointed new members to the state advisory committee including Lisa Downing, Wendy Pearson and Joe Mule. Karen asks how she can talk about this group to other librarians to boost interest. Lisa adds that we should keep in mind other members we can invite in and keeping our Facebook active. Jan suggests seeing if the Huntington Library would do a write up about our advocacy that we can share.

**MLS Collaboration:**

1. **Small Libraries Community Chat- June 14, 3pm-** WMLA is a contributor. Wendy adds that an email blast would be helpful to let librarians know that WMLA is a part of this event.
2. **Meaningful Ways We Can Collaborate-** Lisa was invited to their September board meeting. Lisa adds she'd like more transparent collaboration. Jan adds we can put events on MLS calendar. Jan used to take registration forms to the trustee orientation programs. Packets were distributed.

**Planning for Annual Meeting:**

1. **Combine with the idea share breakfast?** The annual meeting is in October. The Bluebonnet still has our deposit. Lisa asks if Wendy can follow up with the Bluebonnet regarding the new date.
2. **Nominating Committee-** Lisa reached out to Toni. Anna's spot is open.

**WMLA Logo:**

1. **Simmons Student Project-** Lisa has been working with Rebecca, but there hasn't been any interest.
2. **Possible Grant-** Natane has been looking into grants. Lisa asks about possible ranges for grants. Jan suggests possibly two grants or use a logo we've already had and use that for

a while- the waiting may not be doing us much good. Natane adds that she's a member of the Libraries in the Woods group who worked with a designer. Lisa suggests Natane explore that lead. Karen suggests a design contest. Lisa will contact a lead in Easthampton. Rebecca mentions students with design skills at Simmons. Natane likes the option of having a student build their portfolio.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, August 10 at 3pm. There will be no July meeting.

**Adjournment:** Lisa adjourns at 4:04pm.