

**Wayland Free Public Library
Board of Library Trustees**

**Minutes of Meeting on Wednesday, March 15, 2017
Raytheon Room, Wayland Free Public Library
5 Concord Road, Wayland, Massachusetts**

Present: Trustees Aida Gennis (Chair, presiding), Sally Cartwright, Mark Peter Hughes, Lynne Lipcon, Suzanne Woodruff; Mr. Hughes left at 10 a.m.

Absent: Library Director Dana Mastroianni, Trustee Anne Heller

Call to Order: 9:04 a.m.

Visitors and Public Comment

Leah Hart, who is running for a position on the Board of Library Trustees, attended the meeting. Former Trustee Nan Jahnke attended the meeting and took the minutes. There were no other visitors.

In public comment, Mrs. Gennis announced that discussion of the Director's Report would be postponed to the next meeting as Ms. Mastroianni is ill and cannot attend the meeting; program updates, operations reports, and other topics may also be postponed.

Minutes and Reports

On a motion by Mrs. Lipcon, seconded by Mrs. Cartwright, the draft minutes of February 1, 2017, were approved unanimously (5-0).

Events, Campaigns, and Program Updates

In a discussion of efforts to engage new library users, Trustees and Ms. Hart discussed ways to put **social media** (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram) to good use, including an invitation for people to vote on their favorite books and videos of patrons telling why they enjoyed a particular book. Mrs. Lipcon noted that two programs, Ask Edgar and Sprout Social, can be used to automatically post messages to multiple platforms. Mr. Hughes and Ms. Hart will carry this work forward.

Trustees recognized Mrs. Lipcon for her work on the very successful program offered at the Library on Sunday, March 12, featuring **Karim Nagi**, an Egyptian-American performance artist who shared music from the Arab and Islamic world and spoke about difficulties crossing cultural boundaries. More than 100 people attended the performance. The Main Reading Room was taken over for audience seating, causing some inconvenience to patrons, but the reviews of the program were very positive. The program was supported by the Gossels Fund for Human Dignity.

Mrs. Cartwright reported that the **Wayland Reads** program is ready to go, with the kickoff event scheduled for Friday, March 17.

Town Meeting Warrant

Mrs. Gennis reported that she had attended a warrant articles review session and fielded questions about the Trustees' article, Article 11, which asks the town to approve the preliminary design for a new library at 195 Main Street and to authorize the Town to apply for, receive, and expend state grant funds if they are awarded. Cost and reuse of the building at 5 Concord Road were the principal issues raised. Mrs. Cartwright reported that the article was well received at a recent meeting of the Friends of the Library. Mrs. Gennis and Ms. Hart are prepared to speak about the article at Candidates' Night, on March 21. Trustees will also attend two upcoming community forums to update the public on new Library plans and the construction grant application. Mrs. Cartwright and Mr. Hughes will attend the meeting on March 23, and Mrs. Gennis and Mrs. Lipcon will attend the meeting on March 25. Representatives from Tappé Architects, who led the design team for the Library Planning and Design Study, will make the presentations; Mrs. Gennis will present background information and respond to questions about the warrant article.

Mrs. Gennis reviewed the article one last time, as it appears in the warrant, and drew attention to the budget articles, also in the warrant, which present the Library's requested \$1.071 million budget for FY2018, on the operations side, and a \$19 million placeholder for Library construction in FY2019, in the Capital Plan.

Legal Matters

Mrs. Gennis reported that there is some uncertainty about whether and how much the Library Director and the Trustees can "advocate" for Article 11. At issue is a general prohibition on using Town resources to advocate for or against an article that will appear on a ballot asking for debt exclusion. Article 11 does not appear on such a ballot, nor does it make any request for appropriation (by debt exclusion or otherwise), nor does it identify any future such request or ballot measure. However, Town Counsel is concerned that because the article might entail a subsequent request for Town building funds at some later date, the Director and the Trustees should exercise an abundance of caution in all public communications about the article, being careful not to advocate for its passage.

Several Trustees, including Mrs. Cartwright, felt strongly that such reasoning is tenuous, arguing that, on the contrary, it is the Trustees' *duty* to advocate for the article that they are presenting to Town Meeting; they agreed the Director's duty may be different.

Mrs. Gennis also found the Town Counsel's reasoning to be more conservative than warranted, noting that many events must transpire before any ballot question could be put to the voters; for example, Article 11 must pass, the state must award a grant, the Trustees must decide to go forward with the project, and a date must be chosen for public vote. None of these eventualities is certain, she said, much less scheduled. Seeing no direct tie between Article 11 and a future ballot question, she agreed that Trustees should be free to advocate for their article. Mrs. Gennis will contact the State Office of Campaign Finance for more information on this matter.

On another legal front, Trustees continued their discussion of possible use restrictions at 5 Concord Road. As it appears that any such restrictions would concern only the Roby portion of the building and lot, Trustees wondered how the Town might allocate different uses to different portions of the site in the event the Library program moves to 195 Main Street. Perhaps the downstairs of the historic Roby portion of the building could be used for Friends' activities; perhaps the upstairs portion could be used for a reading room and ongoing Friends Book Sale; perhaps the mezzanine area could be reserved for archives and local history collections, perhaps managed in partnership with one of the historical boards or the Wayland Historical Society. Should the new library project go forward, Trustees hoped a committee might be formed to explore all options for repurposing the entire building at 5 Concord Road. Perhaps the Library Planning Committee could be enlisted to spearhead this effort, which Trustees felt should include both residents and Town officials. In the meantime, Mrs. Woodruff distributed her preliminary report on the reuses of other historical library buildings in Massachusetts for Trustees' review, and it was gratefully received. Mrs. Gennis will continue to explore whether action is required in Probate Court, and if so, who should take it.

Communications for Town Meeting

Trustees reviewed the public information pieces being distributed in advance of Town Meeting, including two articles to the *Wayland Town Crier* (one on the current library at 5 Concord Road and another on the proposed library at 195 Main Street), a trifold brochure of Frequently Asked Questions, and two fliers. Trustees advised Mrs. Gennis to model her podium speech on the talk she gave at the League of Women Voters Issues Night, and to stick to the point of seeking endorsement for the application; other issues may be addressed as they arise from the floor. Trustees also approved Mrs. Gennis's selection of slides for presentation at Town Meeting: one of the article language and another showing a map and plan of the site at 195 Main Street.

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair 48 Hours in Advance of Meeting

Mrs. Cartwright, on behalf of the Friends, asked whether the empty planting beds alongside the walkway to the side entrance to the Library might be used as a children's teaching garden. Trustees agreed, pending approval from Ms. Mastroianni.

Mrs. Lipcon asked Trustees to consider dates for a final event in appreciation of former Library Director Ann Knight, to be held at Mrs. Lipcon's house later in the spring.

The Meeting Was Adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

Documents for This Meeting

- Agenda for Meeting, March 15, 2017
- Minutes of Trustees' Meeting on February 1, 2017
- Director's Report, March 2017
- Circulation Report, February 2017
- Financial Reports, Town Funds and Other Funds, 03/13/2017
- Draft flier, "Public Forums: Update on New Library Plans and Construction Grant Application"

- Draft flier: “Article11: It’s Simple”
- Draft trifold brochure: “The Library Construction Grant Application”
- Preliminary report on reuses of other historical library buildings in Massachusetts, prepared by Trustee Suzanne Woodruff

Next Meeting

- Wednesday, March 29, 2017, 8 a.m., location to be determined

Respectfully submitted by Nan Jahnke, a friend of the Wayland Free Public Library