



Dedham Public Library

Massachusetts

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Tracy Driscoll, Chair
Rachel Tuerck
Cecilia Emery Butler
Brad Bauer
Monika Wilkinson

DPL TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES	
SEPTEMBER 30, 2013 MAIN LIBRARY, 9:15 AM	
MEETING CALLED BY	DPL Trustees
TYPE OF MEETING	Special Meeting
CHAIRMAN	Tracy Driscoll
SECRETARY	Monika Wilkinson
ATTENDEES	Brad Bauer, Rachel Tuerck, Tracy Driscoll, Monika Wilkinson, Mary Ann Tricarico
PUBLIC ATTENDEES	Mike Chalifoux, Nancy Baker, Lauren Goldberg, Rosemary Shrewsbury, Elizabeth Martin

The September 30, 2013 special meeting of the Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 9:17 by Chairperson Tracy Driscoll.

1. **Public Input:** Mr. Chalifoux stated that he is recording the meeting.
2. **Minutes of Sept. 25, 2013:** Ms. Tuerck pointed to page 2 second paragraph spelling of Tuerck. Norwood and Westwood. Change wording regarding Norwood libraries to say, "Only Powers and duties and liabilities in respect to facilities are with Town Manager." Ms. Tuerck made motion to accept the minutes. Bauer seconded. All accepted.

3. **Discussion of Town Charter:** Ms. Driscoll explained that Trustees have done extensive research in last couple of weeks and feel there is not good reason for the Library to be under jurisdiction of Town Manager. We've reviewed surrounding and comparable towns, and concluded that it is not in best interest of Library. Cited Sandwich, Wakefield, and Stoneham, towns that have faced changes and chosen not to. Needham is only town that has made change but have not experienced yet. How do we come to agreement in terms of making language change? Ms. Goldberg explained that this is a policy issue. She said a change would be in scope of article. Carving out one piece makes sense. We'd want to look at role of TA. What accountability will there be if everyone else reports to TA? Is there a way to require both parties to come to the table? Ms. Tuerck referred to Sandwich charter and how division is spelled out to address concerns without changing reporting structure. Ms. Goldberg asked what we want our substitute motion to say and what overtures we want to make? Ms. Driscoll, exclusionary language is really what we want. Our goal is looking at libraries and keeping them separate in society to preserve freedom of speech and knowledge. The value to citizens is unique and protection of 1st amendment. Ms. Goldberg emphasized that the change would be in terms of management, not in policy. Ms. Tuerck emphasized that the board is not trying to do the day-to-day oversight, the Director is. Ms. Driscoll cited evidence that majority of towns have chosen to exclude Library and there is a good reason to keep separate. Elected board connecting with the populous is important. FinCom can accept with the exception of our language and it will be part of their original motion. If they don't accept, Trustees have the option to take to Town Meeting as substitute motion. Ms. Goldberg can write both. It's up to the Town to decide. Bauer in looking at minutes that were sent by Ms. Baker there is no discussion of Library and no invitation, despite early minutes that say that each department would be invited. Ms. Baker confirmed that there was very little discussion of individual departments. Ms. Driscoll reiterated the difficulty for Trustees in being part of the process and frustration that it wasn't clear. Ms. Baker explained that the Library was not excluded from the process. Ms. Baker confirmed that Ms. Goldberg can make changes to present to FinCom tomorrow night. Mr. Bauer asked about By-laws in which the word "Trustees" changed to Director for hiring and firing employees and added "subject to consent of Town Administrator." Ms. Goldberg explained that Charter will trump By-Laws. We'd have to have a substitute motion for this too or ask FinCom to consider this as well.

Ms. Goldberg explained that HR can assist Library Director instead of that work being done by a Town Administrator. Ms. Goldberg discussed possible changes in the future; Charter doesn't have every relationship issue worked out. It is supposed to be an outline for governance and attempt to streamline.

Ms. Driscoll asked if all minutes have been approved for Charter Review. Ms. Baker said there are some that are not yet approved. She offered we look at her notes. She and Ms. Goldberg confirmed that Ms. Goldberg will prepare changes to Article 9. Both left at 10:02.

Ms. Driscoll said we need to make a strong case for the change in language. Mr. Bauer suggested a four-minute speech printed to hand out. All nodded in agreement. He said the Library was not considered much individually at all and deserves extra consideration. Ms. Driscoll said we can't just assume we're already doing something and we'll figure things out. Ms. Driscoll suggested chart with reasons and results from other towns. Ms. Tuerck said that by adding Library we're doubling workload for the Town Manager/Administrator. Ms. Tuerck will lead work on PowerPoint. Mr. Bauer wants to include hours each week of Trustees. Discussion of how Town Administrator would handle difficulty. Are Trustees really going to be there to advise if they are disengaged? Ms. Driscoll asked if we discuss issues of chaos, would TA have had to lead would it have been chaos and so much time? Ms. Tuerck pointed out that long-term vs. short-term outcome is important. Two main points 1) Library is unique—separated by Massachusetts law. Library Director is only in town with state mandated requirements, professional entity and institution. Professional staff of library all have graduate MLS degrees. Service to all ages in range of hours. (investigate information about other boards and whether they are covered under state law. Ms. Tuerck will check. Parks and Rec director is appointed yearly) Dr. Tricarico said put state law at the center of this reason. Include service hours to citizens in a year and numbers of citizens. Mr. Bauer cited MA state constitution that emphasizes literacy. 2) Democratic representation—citizens want say in their local libraries. Dr. Tricarico said reasons have to be powerful and positive. Citizens have shown historically and repeatedly demonstrated their commitment to the democratic process. Focus on Trustees' authority not ability. Ms. Driscoll cited language on MBLC website that encouraged advocacy for exempt library from being under the control of another municipal officer. She also pointed to statistic of 37% increase in usage overall. 3) Management vs. Leadership. Discussion of priorities of Town Administrators. Ms. Wilkinson shared example of Franklin Library.

Some discussion of other boards and their positions about language.

Discussion of tomorrow night and in case FinCom turns down tomorrow night. Process wasn't clear. We tried to be involved.

4. Decision to work on PowerPoint. 10:45. Only Trustees and Dr. Tricarico present.

Mr. Chairman and FinCom members, good evening and thank you for this opportunity for the Library Board of Trustees to address Warrant Article 9. We appreciate all the hours of work that the Charter Advisory Committee has done, and we ask you to consider the following proposed changes highlighted here to Article 9 as prepared by Lauren Goldberg.

Insert new language.

These changes maintain administration of the Library under the jurisdiction of the Library Board of Trustees. The reasons for this are the following:

State Law:

- Constitution literacy clause
- MA General Law 78 Section 11 (In notes)
- State regulatory agency MBLC advises trustees to “advocate for wording to exempt library from being under the control of another municipal officer.” cite

Precedence

- Board of Library Trustees appoint, manage, and evaluate the Library Director in more than 2/3 of MA municipalities, including 8 out of 9 comparable towns (include in notes)
- 3 comparable towns recently excluded Library from similar charter changes
- 5 out 6 surrounding towns

Library Is a Unique Institution

- Extensive service to the community
157,022 items borrowed each year (6.3 items per resident)
Receives 122,789 visits from citizens of all ages (FY2013), nearly 5x population
86 collective hours of service per week
- Professional Institution and Professional Staff
State-mandated qualifications required for Library Directors
Staff with graduate degrees in Library Science
- Democratic institution Bot is voice of the community

Benefits of Maintaining Current Structure for Libraries

- Cohesive organization

Chart thing: BOT works with Library Director, BOT is voice of people and direct link to Director and service-oriented
Citizens—BLT--Director

- Streamlined organization and leadership
- Focused attention on Institution from within. Priority of Trustees.
- Trustees are powerful advocates for the community Library via the Director, role is clear

Future of the Library

Determined by vision of citizens as articulated by elected Library Board of Trustees. LBOT advances the vision of what libraries are or should become for 21st century.

Ms. Tuerck and Ms. Driscoll will work on preparing slides with wording to share with Trustees and Dr. Tricarico.

Motion made by Ms. Wilkinson to adjourn at 12:38. 2nd by Ms. Tuerck. All approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Monika Wilkinson

Future Meetings:

Sept. 30 Monday 9:15 am Main History Room

Oct. 17 Thursday 7:00 pm Endicott

Nov. 4 Monday 9:15 am Main History Room

Dec. 9 Monday 9:15 am Main History Room

Attachments:

Agenda