

Ashby Library Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
Thursday January 26, 2012

Meeting convened 7:05

Present: John Mickola, Dwight Horan, Michelle Thomas, Martha Morgan, Doug Leab, Anne Manney, Hanae Olmstead, Library Director Mary Murtland

Secretary's Report: MOTION to accept minutes with minor amendments from December meeting. Seconded, U.A.¹

Treasurer's Report/ Scholarship Committee:

In compliance with MBLC; received check for \$1,431.57 as first payment; second will come in June (same amount). Funds go into special line item called state aid for library only. Has been used as an emergency fund in the past.

Quarterly report: net earnings from last quarter were \$39 for last quarter. All of Town's trust funds were poor for last quarter. Doug L. will check into it.

Received check from Marston Fund – not under Town finances; \$300 placed into Scholarship Fund. Received letter from Atty. who oversees Fund saying that it's not worth it for the Atty. to oversee the fund any longer. Recommend it be turn over to Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts. 25% of Marston's Trust fund goes to UU church. 25% goes to general fund for library. 50% goes to scholarships. \$300 of last check (100%) went to scholarship fund this past time. Doug L. is going to talk with CFNCM and town accountant about the Marston Fund before we vote to do anything else with the \$300.

Dwight will put down on and submit electronically the process for distribution of the scholarships. We have \$3,583.77 to spend. We have about 36 applicants. Two categories: New applicants: named funds, and renewal. Four named funds: Todd Wright, Ashby alum, Marston, Ruth Brooks. General fund is Marston-Lyman-Brooks fund. Some people will get \$100, some will get \$150, some \$200.

MOTION to Accept Treasurer's and Scholarship Report, Seconded, UA.

Library Director's Report:

Mary is looking for a place to purchase used movies. Used to be Blockbuster. Also books on CD.

A lot more community groups using the library.

Applied for a grant Libri Foundation (Friends helped). Non-profit will match in-kind from \$50 to \$350 for children's books.

¹ U.A.: Unanimous Approval.

Will start a School Age Story Hour every month starting in February.
Cathy Johnson will be hosting a puppet making workshop.

Linda Lapham will again display her art work the month of February. Opening reception February 2nd.

Light bulbs are burning out. New energy saving bulbs are very expensive, but worth it for the energy savings and they last longer (and are hard to replace).

Defibrillator: Every 2 years must get retrained. Easier and cheaper to retrain than get recertification. Fire Chief has offered to train, and offered to pay for alarm fees for the library. A new full-time fire person/ EMT is willing to do training. Mary M. will call her and offer a couple of trainings. Chief has also agreed to maintain the defibrillator (usually needs a battery). Mary M. can take care of replacing the battery if that is all that is needed.

Policy Committee meeting has not moved forward. Mary M. does not have it at the top of her list; too busy.

MOTION to accept Director's Report. Seconded, UA.

Furnace Discussion:

Bill for \$2,300 to repair the blowers and controls (not actually furnace). Sophisticated system, requires little voltage. Three phase system, so when power surge or a phase goes out, causes the instruments to go out. Talked about a surge protector from street, but that's very expensive. Fuses blow, which helps prevent more damage. Controls used are Johnson, which are highest priced/ best and cost more to replace. Units were about \$400 a piece to replace. DDM does understand the system, which is the up side. Last week only cold air coming in. DDM opened valve to let hot water circulate, but returned and there was still an issue. Brown outs will continue to be a problem. Not always the same thing that needs to be replaced when surges happen. Whole system replacement would be thousands of dollars.

John talked to them about changing over to natural gas. Could get as much as 60% savings in fuel cost. Approximately \$10,000 to change over from oil to natural gas. Will talk with Jim Hubert about change over and the light bulbs.

Budget:

Figures from Town Fin. Comm. report was about what we submitted as a request. John was not confident about the amount for the books. Needs to be 19.5% of the total. John left 3% raise for Mary and Selectmen were ok with that, also 2 weeks pay to cover for Mary's vacation. Warrant article request for intern: \$8.00/hr. to be divided between two individuals for a total of \$4,992.00 for the year (52 weeks).

Maintenance: if our oil bill is \$10,000, savings of 60% would be a huge savings. \$2,000 for furnace maintenance (what we spent last year).

\$12,000 for insulation, furnace changeover, and other upgrades could save the library money. Might come from free cash; money came through from ice storm.

Bottom line: Finance Committee and Selectmen are ok with the budget.

Proposed 2012 Public Meeting Notice Meeting Dates and Times: all 4th Thursday except for November and December, which will be the 5th Thursdays.

Next meeting February 23th (4th Thursday).

8:20 pm Adjourn

Submitted by

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Martha A. Morgan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Martha Morgan, Secretary