

**Lynnfield Public Library****Minutes of the Board of Trustees****August 31, 2023****1. Call Meeting to Order**

This virtual meeting was called to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. by Robert Calamari, Chair. Roll call was taken and those in attendance were: Robert Calamari, Chair; Faith Honer-Coakley, Vice-Chair; Russell Boekenkroeger, Trustee; Richard Mazzola, Trustee; Andrew Kenneally, Trustee; Abigail Porter, Library Director; and Gerri Karonis, Secretary. After the commencement of the meeting, Tom Kayola from the Lynnfield Public Library Building Committee signed on briefly but then exited.

Mr. Calamari informed the Board and those in attendance that the meeting was being recorded and that the Minutes would be available as soon as possible after the conclusion of the meeting.

2. Approval of Letter to the Editor regarding New Library

The Library Trustees had previously prepared and issued a Press Release to local newspapers regarding the proposed construction of a new library that will be before the Town Meeting on October 16, 2023. Perhaps due to the short Labor Day work week, the newspapers had not yet published the Press Release. The purpose of the meeting on August 31 was to approve the form of a Letter to the Editor to be issued in support of the Press Release, and to correct information found in a newspaper article last month on the proposed library. The Letter to the Editor will be issued to The Lynnfield Villager and The Lynnfield Weekly News/Lynn Item.

Trustee Russell Boekenkroeger noted that before the Lynnfield Public Library Trustee Meeting, he had e-mailed to all the Trustees a further revised draft of the Letter to the Editor to be issued. He asked whether everyone had the same draft under discussion and all agreed they had the most current form.

A discussion followed. The Trustees agreed that the form of the letter needed to be revised to include specific data points relevant to building a new library. The Lynnfield Library may be historically quaint but it has no parking. An employee was critically injured by a speeding motorist as she was walking to her car. Lynnfield is the only Town in close proximity that has not updated its library. Reading, North Reading, Middleton, Wakefield, and Hamilton-Wenham have all modernized their existing libraries. The building has significant structural, heating, and plumbing problems, and is not ADA-compliant. Despite all these problems, the Library has witnessed an increase in the number of library patrons, and last year, the Library had over 100,000 visitors.

Lynnfield will miss a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity if it does not take advantage of the \$9 million+ MBLC grant to help fund the construction of the new library.

The Trustees unanimously agreed that the Letter to the Editor needs to be further revised to include the points discussed. A motion was submitted by Vice-Chair Faith Honer-Coakely to

permit Trustee Russell Boekenkroeger and Trustee Andrew Kenneally to make these final edits to the Letter to the Editor and to issue it on behalf of all Trustees as soon as possible. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

3. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Gerri Karonis

Geraldine Karonis
Secretary