

GML Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 11th, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

In person at Highway Garage

9 Jacksonville Road,

Colrain, MA 01340

Present: Betty, Betsy, Mikaela, Nancy, Marty, Chelsea, Cheli

Members of the public in attendance: Rachel Marston (303 Adamsville Rd), Ellen Weeks (56 Foundry Vlg Rd), Anna Lavarreda (254 Shelburne Line Rd), Ellen Smith (29 Fort Lucas Rd)

Notes: Marty

I. Opening:

Call to Order at 18:06

Land Acknowledgment (read by Betsy)

We acknowledge that the land we occupy has been stewarded by the Abenaki, Wabanaki, Pocumtuc, and neighboring nations for millennia before the arrival of colonial settlers. We honor their resilience, wisdom, and living presence by moving beyond words into actions that support Native rights, forward cultural equity, and protect the land, air, and water that give us life. While we do not have answers to the problems that we have inherited from the past, we can commit to asking difficult questions, thinking critically, and holding space for discussions that will lead to a more equitable and sustainable community.

Team agreements (read by Betty):

- We aim to start on time, end on time, and stay on track.
- We work together and independently to further the GML's mission and vision.
- We hold ourselves accountable.
- We are open to change.
- We share our joys, successes, and ideas for improvement.
- We listen to one another and hold space for questions, discussion, and debate.

II. Approval of meeting agenda: Betty, Betsy (2nd)

III. Approval of previous meeting minutes and January meeting minutes: Betty, Betsy (2nd)

February minutes: correct spelling of Kaylee Mulligan

Approved as amended: Betty, Betsy (2nd)

IV. Reports

a. Director's report

Chelsea sent it out previously.

Notes the following:

- included update on survey: encourages responses.

- Planning outreach at transfer station next Saturday, March 16 10a-3p
- “Read to Lamby” last Saturday of the month. Gain confidence in reading and hang out with a therapy dog!
- Earth Day 4/20, 11a-1p – same day as firefighters breakfast, but should not conflict
- pollinator talk, Friends of Library, a craft from Ms. Betty, dancers
- May 1st – Candidates night – Nancy and Betty have papers out for trustee
- Reworking Tech help. - remind people it’s a good place to send people for tech help!
- Can help with 1-1 “drop-ins,” can also make appointments ahead of time
- MBLC reached out: have not filled preservation specialist position, happy we’re staying in touch re: building preservation.

Question from Nancy about tech support, need help?

All need to help people remember this as a resource.

Motion to accept report as added to: Betty, Betsy (2nd)

b. Treasurer’s report

Betty: was able to match with the town accountant. Noticed that Chelsea’s salary was miscoded as assistant, but it balances other than miscodes (which fund it was paid out of – clerical error, will be easily fixed)

Motion to accept T report – Betsy, Mikaela (2nd)

c. Cornerstone Committee report

Betty: meeting next Tuesday at 4p to discuss 3 RFQs from different agencies. Committee reviewing, will discuss then.

Chelsea: Likely next step – interviewing candidates from the RFQs

Betty: hoping to have a plan by November

d. Governance Committee report

Has not met.

V. Ongoing business

a. Busts

- Director’s recommendation (submitted in writing)
 - “Asking that we continue to seek a more appropriate...”
- Trustees’ proposals
 - Nancy’s rationale and proposal submitted in writing
- Discussion – Trustee vote possible
 - If we were to keep three, which ones? Longfellow, Dante, Beethoven
 - Don’t see a place for Columbus
 - What does restoration look like for the others?
 - Lincoln and Washington have chipped plaster, but look clean
 - Beethoven and Dante look dirty
 - previous attempts at restoration were not professional
 - Homer’s condition is disturbing
 - Important to keep Washington and Lincoln
 - Learning from Columbus?
 - Town has agreement to make good with indigenous communities

Ellen Smith, conservation specialist

re: conservation – they’ve absorbed mold, dirt, 100 years of mess.

There are government grants to survey for conservation

Under present circumstances, no safe way to keep them from further damage/decay

no good way to conserve them in the library

“hermetically sealing them will just get the mold more excited”

shouldn’t be spending our money on restoration of the busts

Library had been advised to get rid of anything moldy...

Conservators report (2020) get rid of superfluous/extra things and mold vectors

Are we a library or a museum?....

Limited resources: need to focus on the scope of a public library

Mold allergies should be a major concern for the staff

Concern for the staff the longer this draws out

If we’re concerned about mold, need to look at the entire contents of the basement
multiple accounts of people reporting mold response, need to leave the library

Motion made by Mikaela, Betsy (2nd)

Based on the condition of the busts and on the recommendations of multiple conservators and consultants, and the recommendations of the library director, the board votes to immediately remove all the busts from the public area of the library, to store them safely, with the intention of seeking professional advice to help us relocate them to an appropriate venue.

Motion passed, One abstained.

Chelsea will get info from NEDCC and museum connections about how to proceed

b. Community Preservation Act – Tabled

VI. New Business

a. Candidate’s Night and elections for town office – Tabled

VII. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 20:02 by Betty, Betsy (2nd)

Next meeting: Monday, April 8th at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Marty Dagoberto