MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Date : January 5, 2017

Time : 10:00 A.M.

Place : Thomas Crane Public Library

 Quincy, Massachusetts

Present : Mary Ann Cluggish, Chairman; N. Janeen Resnick, Vice Chairman; Roland A. Ochsenbein, Secretary; Carol B. Caro; Francis R. Murphy; Mary Kronholm; Gregory J. Shesko

Absent : George T. Comeau, Esq.; Alice M. Welch

**Staff Present:**

Dianne Carty, Director; Liz Babbitt, State Aid Specialist; Celeste Bruno, Communications Director; Rachel Masse, Assistant to the Director; Matthew Perry, Outreach Coordinator; Shelley Quezada, Consultant to the Unserved; Mary Rose Quinn, Head of State Programs/Government Liaison, Ruth Urell, Head of Library Advisory and Development

**Observers Present:**

Susan Bunnell, Chair Board of Selectman, Wilbraham; Deborah Conrad, Network Administrator, SAILS, Inc.; Clayton Cheever, Assistant Director, Thomas Crane Public Library, Quincy,; Karen Demers, Director, Wilbraham Public Library; Virginia Duval, Trustee, Adams Free Library; Anna Fahey-Flynn, Collaborative Services Librarian, Boston Public Library (BPL); Patricia Feeley, Collaborative Services Librarian, Boston Public Library (BPL); Holli Jayko, Director, Adams Free Library; Tony Mazzucco, Town Administrator, Adams Free Library; Gregory Pronevitz, Executive Director, Massachusetts Library System (MLS); Lucy Pelland, Trustee, Wilbraham Public Library; Sharon Shaloo, Executive Director, Massachusetts Center for the Book

**Call to Order**

Commissioner Cluggish called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM and recognized Clayton Cheever, Assistant Director, Thomas Crane Public Library who welcomed the Board to Quincy.

**Approval of Minutes- December 1, 2016**

Commissioner Caro moved and Commissioner Murphy seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approve the minutes for the monthly business meeting December 1, 2016, as amended.

**The Board voted approval.**

**Chairman Cluggish noted that the meeting would be going out of order to accommodate the State Aid presentations.**

**Chairman’s Report**

Chairman Cluggish spoke about the retirement of Director Dianne Carty. She praised Director Carty for her leadership. Chairman Cluggish knew the day would come because she said that Director Carty is a woman of her word but she hoped she would stay a little bit longer. She expressed how deeply missed she will be.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Director Carty reported:

Meetings since the last Board meeting.

* December 2 —MLS Strategic Plan Implementation Conference
* December 6 –Center for the Book, Massachusetts Book Awards
* December 6 —Meeting with Massachusetts Office for Victim’s Assistance (MOVA) and Deborah Froggatt from the Boston Public Schools (BPS)
* December 19 – Vendor meeting for statewide database RFR review

The general theme of the conversation with MOVA and BPS centered on building an infrastructure that supports Commonwealth residents. There was discussion about shared training and publicly sharing MOVA/MBLC collaborations. These collaborations could include: Explicit explanation, training, and publicity for different types of MOVA/Public Library Services (collaborative planning/writing/promoting); MOVA Toolkits for local communities, distributed via public libraries; connecting Trauma Specialists with Library Teams (setting up regional and, perhaps, in house trainings); common web page creation (MOVA info/MBLC library access by zip code - the what and where on each agencies pages); and promotional work that represents both agencies. We are very excited about the potential for libraries and residents of the Commonwealth.

I have begun conversations with the executive director of the Social Law Library, Robert J. Brink. Let me quote from his letter to me, *“While our mandate is to provide direct services to officials in state government and dues-paying members, we are mindful and supportive of the public ‘access to justice’ movement. Towards that end, I write to (1) offer educational services to public libraries regarding legal research and sources and (2) to seek advice and possible collaboration regarding potential public access to our propriety legal-research databases.”*

We are discussing a program for education of librarians and how we can provide ‘in-library’ use of databases to public libraries. This has the potential of great benefit to Massachusetts librarians.

Our strategic planning process is still on track with the timetable. A retreat will take place at the Bolton Public Library on January 25 from 9am until 3:30pm. On January 24, Mr. Brickman will hold a session with the staff of the MBLC. There will be an informational release going out to the library community. I have had frequent conference calls with Alan regarding the process.

Our new Head of Operations and Budget will begin on Monday, January 9, 2017.

Both Leicester and Sherborn are opening in their temporary spaces on January 9. There are no dates for groundbreakings as yet.

The MBLC was awarded the NEH Division of Preservation and Access Education and Training grant of $196,696 for 2 years to produce and offer a series of five workshops on disaster preparedness, planning, response, and recovery in conjunction with the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy. It is targeted at the cultural and first responder communities. Gregor Trinkaus-Randall is the project director.

Thirty-three Letters of Intent came in for the Library Construction grant round. The applications are due on January 26.

Sixty-three Letters of Intent were received for the FY2018 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Direct Grant round.

**Legislative Report**

The November unemployment rate in Massachusetts sank to 2.9%, two points lower than a year ago and the lowest level since January 2001.

Total tax collections for December's mid-month revenue report totaled $1.062 billion, up $90 million or 9.3%. This figure includes $51 million from November receipts processed in December. Excluding this amount, the month-to-date total would be $39 million or 4.0% over the December 2015 month-to-date figure. On a fiscal year-to-date basis: total tax collections through December 15th were $10.522 billion, which is $277 million or 2.7% greater than the same period last year. Income taxes were $5.873 billion, up $121 million or 2.1% over the same period. Corporate and business taxes were $947 million, which is $105 million or 12.4% ahead of the same period last year.

In mid-December, Governor Charlie Baker cut $98 million from the $39.25 billion FY 2017 budget. Legislators are concerned that the cuts were premature and suggested that they may decide to do a supplemental budget to restore the funds after they review future revenue figures. The Governor has also said that if revenues improve, he may restore funding as well.

In addition to the cuts, the Governor offered retirement and separation from service incentives in an effort to save $25 million. A total of 729 employees took the $15,000 cash retirement incentive, and 171 workers took a one-time $5,000 payout to leave government service. After the $11.6 million in buyout payments and the $11.6 million in accrued benefits, including vacation, comp time, and sick time for retirees, the net savings this year are limited. The Governor expects greater savings from this buyout program in FY 2018, which would cut the state workforce by about 1%. Legislators are also not ruling out tax increases in FY 2018.

The American Library Association announced that libraries retained over $1 billion in federal funding for programs as a result of the stop gap funding measure passed by Congress on December 9th to avoid the midnight shut down of the Federal Government. The continuing resolution cleared the Senate after it was approved by the House on December 8th and will allow spending by all arms of the Federal Government at near FY 2016 levels through April 28, 2017. President Obama signed the resolution on December 10th.

Commissioners continue to contact Legislative Leadership regarding the FY 2017 budget, the ongoing deficit in the Agency budget line, and in preparation for the FY 2018 budget submissions by the Governor, House, and Senate beginning the third week in January. Legislators have received the first two Legislative Agendas and will receive two more each month through the legislative budget season.

A dozen Legislative Breakfasts are scheduled beginning in mid-January and ending the first Friday in March. Each Breakfast Host is being asked which Agenda they would like to feature at their Breakfast and will receive the “5 Reasons Why State Funding Matters” and posters of the 12 Agendas. Thank you to the Commissioners who will represent the MBLC at the Breakfasts across the Commonwealth and a reminder to Commissioners that the Massachusetts Municipal Association's Annual Meeting and Trade Show is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, January 20 and 21. This represents the best opportunity for the Board to meet with and discuss statewide library issues and funding with local officials.

MLA has put a call out to libraries for project and display proposals for MLA/MSLA Legislative Day at the State House on Tuesday, March 7. The MLA Legislative Committee will meet on Friday, January, 27 to determine which presentations will be on display at Legislative Day.

Representative Kate Hogan will be hosting a Legislative Library Caucus meeting in February. Dianne Carty and Mary Rose Quinn will be meeting with Representative Hogan to work out the details of the meeting and the agenda.

The 190th General Court was sworn in at the beginning of January. An updated list of legislators by town, including the incoming freshmen legislators in both the House and Senate will be distributed shortly. A list of Leadership and Committees will be developed as well, although changes for most of the key chairmanships are unlikely. The Governor will be presenting his State of the Commonwealth Address on Tuesday, January 24, the evening before he announces his FY 2018 Fiscal Year Budget, referred to as House 1.

**Consideration of approval of municipalities meeting the requirements for the FY2017 State Aid to Public Libraries based on eligibility established in the FY2017 for the Municipal Appropriation Requirement and in FY2016 for the minimum standards**

Liz Babbitt, State Aid Specialist, presented for certification 73 municipalities meeting the requirements for FY2017 State Aid to Public Libraries program totaling $980,995.22.

Ms. Babbitt reminded the Commissioners that these awards are half payments. The remainder is paid at the end of the grant cycle.

Commissioner Murphy made a motion and Commissioner Shesko seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners certifies that the communities on the attached list have met minimum standards of free public library service and awards each a FY2017 Library Incentive Grant, a FY2017 Municipal Equalization Grant and a FY2017 Nonresident Circulation offset in the indicated amounts, totaling $980,995.22, and authorizes any additional FY2017 State Aid to Public Libraries disbursements that may be possible toward the end of the grant cycle.

**The Board voted approval.**

**Commissioner Murphy abstained for Harwich.**

Ms. Babbitt noted that two more municipalities will be presented in February.

**Review of Municipalities requesting waivers for the FY2017 municipal appropriation requirements in the FY2017 State Aid to Public Libraries program within the 5% threshold**

Mary Rose Quinn, Head of State Programs presented 20 libraries that were petitioning the Board for a Waiver of the MAR that were below the 5 percent threshold set by the Board for not being disproportionately cut in relationship to other departments within their municipality. These 20 municipalities are Adams, Carver, Chelsea, Dunstable, Fairhaven, Fall River, Franklin, Haverhill, Holbrook, Lawrence, Lenox, Leverett, Longmeadow, Malden, New Bedford, Newbury, North Adams, North Attleborough, Palmer, and Paxton.

**review and presentations of petitions for waivers of the municipal appriation requirements for the FY2017 state aid to public Libraries above the 5% threshold**

Ms. Quinn outlined the waiver review process for those municipalities above the 5% threshold. These are required to submit their petition and documentation in writing and present testimony on their petition before the Board at today’s meeting. The two municipalities are Adams

(-20.88%) and Wilbraham (-5.85%).

**Testimony submitted by Town of Wilbraham**

The concept of the Municipal Appropriation Requirement was first used in 1890 as an incentive for municipalities to fund public libraries, and it is the charge of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners to administer the State Aid program and create standards for measuring library services throughout the commonwealth.

We are confident that everyone in this room is committed to providing quality library services to their communities. However, there is indeed a question as to whether of not the MAR is a true measurement of how successful a community is in delivering such services to its residents. The "State Aid to Public Libraries -White Paper", produced by the Edward J. Collins Center for Public Management in 2014, recognized this fact in its Executive Summary and recommended "Redefining the MAR so that is bears some relation to adequate service provision rather than simply historic appropriation levels".

The document also noted that since the recession, many public libraries had budget cuts that led to a "new normal" and that these communities would be greatly challenged to bring budgets up to previous levels. Wilbraham is one of these communities.

The Wilbraham community, the Library Board of Trustees, and the library staff are committed to maintaining an active library with robust collections and services. The White Paper also refers to the MAR as an "anti-erosion" measure. The Town of Wilbraham, the Board of Library Trustees, and the library staff believes that there has been no "erosion" of our services. We are continually responding to our patrons' needs. A comparison of financial and service statistics of our neighboring libraries and those of similar sized communities reveals that Wilbraham is certainly on par with the others, and in several cases, exceeds the other communities. A complete chart of comparisons is included. As an example, Wilbraham had the highest materials budget, at $116,273, significantly higher than Belchertown's allocation of$66,553, a community with a similar population.

The Town of Wilbraham strives to make the best use of the taxpayers' dollars and goes into each year's budget cycle with the goal of keeping tax rate increases below 2.5%. As a community with a regional school district, there is a unique set of challenges preparing a school budget that involves multiple board reviews. For the past two years, the library and other departments have been required to propose a budget with a 1% increase in the expense line.

Salary lines were increased by any contractual percentages. The library had proposed a new part-time Reference and Marketing position for approximately $17,000. However, there were several position requests from other departments as well and the only positions approved were in the Fire Department and Dispatch. It was necessary for the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen to prioritize requests, and public safety continues to be a top priority for our community.

The MBLC recently re-calculated our MAR given the fact that our IT services have been centralized within the Town. Although we appreciate the modification, there are other factors that also impact staffing that have not been taken into account. Prior to 2010, the Wilbraham Public Library had three traditional service point areas - the Circulation Desk, the Reference Desk, and the Children's Librarian's Desk. We renovated the library in 2009-2010 and adopted the model of a central Service Desk. Having a single point of service is not only a benefit to our patrons coming in seeking assistance, it requires only two staff members to be on the floor instead of three, which allows for a better use of staffing.

In 2013, the Wilbraham Library expanded our operating hours by adding Sunday hours from September through May. Although this was very well received by the community, issues developed with the IUOE Local 98 collective bargaining unit that required the Board of Library Trustees to cease this service. Pending the results of the Town's negotiations for the next union contract, we hope to restore these hours. In lieu of Sunday hours, the Wilbraham Library increased its hours during the week by restoring our opening hours to 9:00 am, beginning July 2016. The minimum number of hours of operation for a community in our population group is 40 hours per week. We are currently open 54 hours per week year round, even exceeding the minimum standard for the 15,000-24,999 population group, which is 50 hours per week.

The recent State Aid Review process resulted in the MBLC approving changes in March 2016 dealing with the following:

1. Compliance Period for the Hours Open Requirement from the current Compliance Period of Labor Day to Memorial Day to any nine months in a fiscal year
2. Materials Expenditure Requirement to include a percentage of technology for patron use , and
3. Municipal Appropriation Requirement to remove municipally appropriated Revolving Funds from the MAR calculation and affected libraries' MAR readjusted

The MBLC also determined that additional review of the MAR and waiver process were necessary and put a task force in place. The meetings for this committee began in September 2016 and are scheduled through March 2017.

It is the desire of the Board of Library Trustees and the administration of the Town of Wilbraham that the MBLC grant our waiver this year as final recommendations of the task force have yet to be presented. We are hopeful that the Task Force will recognize that although it is important to have standards of services, the MAR in and of itself is not an adequate measure of a community's ability to provide quality library services and that eligibility for State

Aid should encompass a broader criteria.

**Testimony submitted by Town of Adams**

**A quick overview of Adams:**

* 8,400 people, former mill town.
* Primarily low income (median family, household and per capita income far below state average), highest elderly population in Berkshire County, highest tax rate in Berkshire County, unemployment rate of around 7%.
* Low property values (average home price $136,000).

**Personal Services:**

* Total decrease of approximately $40,000.
* $28,000 of this was the cost difference between the current director (step 1, not on Town health insurance) and retiring director (top step, family health plan).
* Error in health insurance budgeting had FY16 health insurance budgeted higher than necessary for one position.
* Reduction of a full time position (no job loss) to a PT position.
* In two budget cycles (FY 16 and FY17) the Town eliminated the following positions: 2 DPW, 3 Town Hall, 3 Police, reduced 2 COA positions to part time, and eliminated 22 positions in the school district.

**Operating Expenses:**

* All town departments were asked to submit operating budgets with as close to a 15% decrease as possible.
* Adams Free Library came in at a10% operating reduction, or about $10,000.
* A large portion of the operating reduction ($2,500 or 25%) was a savings in heating cost, another was a microfilming program that began last year at $3,300 in cuts (service available elsewhere), and $1,500 cut in data processing.
* Remainder of cuts were small reductions to various operating lines.
* No collection lines were reduced. Still meeting minimum hours.

**Costs not allocated to Library Budget:**

* As with any community there are many costs not included in the Library budget that are directly related to the cost of the library. Chief among these:
	+ $36,000 annually in retiree health care for library employees alone.
	+ Electricity, IT services, employee benefits other than health insurance (tuition reimbursement, etc).
	+ Property & casualty insurance, other insurances (D&O).
	+ Maintenance and custodial services.
	+ Pension costs.
* The total cost for operating the library is likely close to 50% higher than presented, excluding debt service.

**Capital projects not allocated to Library Budget:**

* In FY 15/16 the Town undertook a $1 million renovation at the Adams Free Library with the debt service hitting the books for FY17. This is not allocated to the Library budget directly.
* This cost is approximately $79,000 annually for 15 years.
* This renovation included a new roof, ADA accessibility, new restrooms, major electrical upgrades and many small repairs.
* This is the Town’s largest capital investment since a wastewater plant upgrade in 2003.
* More than 10% of the Town’s annual debt service cost is for the library project.

**Consideration of Charge to the Director Search Committee**

The Director Search Committee is charged with identifying and recommending candidates for the position of Director for consideration by the Board of Library Commissioners.

The committee will review applications, conduct preliminary screening interviews by telephone, conduct second interviews and forward up to five finalists for the Board’s consideration.

The committee will carry out its proceedings fairly and confidentially to protect the privacy of the applicants until the finalists have been selected to be presented to the Board.

The Board of Library Commissioners will hold interviews of the finalists recommended by the Search Committee at an open Board meeting and select the Director.

It is anticipated that the Search Committee will begin its work in January, and conclude its work by early April.

Commissioner Caro moved and Commissioner Murphy seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners adopts the charge to the director search committee as detailed in agenda item 8a.

 **The Board voted approval.**

**Consideration of appointments to the Director Search Committee**

Jan Resnick, Vice Chair, Board of Library Commissioners

Roland Ochsenbein, Secretary, Board of Library Commissioners

George Comeau, Board of Library Commissioners

Deborah Conrad, Administrator, SAILS Library Network

David Leonard, President, Boston Public Library

Greg Pronevitz, Executive Director, Massachusetts Library System

Molly Fogarty, Director, Springfield Public Library

Karen Mellor, Chief of Library Services, Rhode Island Office of Library and Information Services

Shelley Quezada, MBLC staff

Commissioner Caro motioned and Commissioner Kronholm seconded for a member of Massachusetts Library Association to be added to this search committee.

**The Board voted approval.**

Commissioner Shesko motioned and Commissioner Murphy seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners adopts the composition and appointments to the director search committee as in agenda 8b as amended with the understanding that the Commissioner liaisons to the search committee are authorized to fill any appointments that are not confirmed at this time.

**The Board voted approval.**

**Projected Director Search Process and Timeline**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Review and revise job description—internal\* | December, 2016 |
| Create job posting—internal\* | December, 2016 |
| Contact Search Committee candidates—internal\* | December, 2016 |
| *Search Committee*--Board approves Committee members and charge | January 5, 2017 |
| Post and advertise position—internal/HR\* | January 6, 2017 |
| *Search Committee*--organizational conference call | January, 2017 |
| *Search Committee*--candidate cover letters/resumes sent to Committee for preliminary review | February 6-10, 2017 |
| **Deadline for applicants to submit resume & cover letter**  | February 10, 2017 |
| *Search Committee*--selects initial candidates for screening interviews—in-person or conference call | February 13-17, 2017 |
| Screening telephone interviews scheduled—internal\* | February 17, 2017 |
| *Search Committee*-- screening telephone interviews conducted | February 20-24, 2017 |
| *Search Committee*--selects finalists for 2nd interview—in-person or conference call | February 27-March 3, 2017 |
| Second interviews scheduled—internal\* | March 6, 2017 |
| *Search Committee*—conducts second interviews—in-person | March 13-17, 2017  |
| *Search Committee*--selects potential finalists for 3rd interview—in-person or conference call | March 20-31, 2017 |
| Potential finalists for 3rd interview complete background check—internal/HR\* | March 31- April 3, 2017 |
| *Search Committee*—Selects finalists for 3rd interview at Board meeting—in-person or conference call | April 3-7, 2017 |
| —**Search Committee process complete--**Resumes and cover letters of finalists sent to Board—internal\* | April 7, 2017 |
| Board interviews scheduled—internal/HR\* | April 7, 2017 |
| Board interviews finalists (2-2 1/2 days) | April 10-21, 2017  |
| Reference checks—internal/HR\* | April 24-26, 2017 |
| Selection of candidate by Board—completion of state hiring process—internal/HR\* | May, 2017 |
| Official Appointment by Board | May 4, 2017 |
| New Director assumes responsibilities | July, 2017  |

Commissioner Caro motioned and Commissioner Shesko seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners adopts the timeline for the director search committee as detailed in agenda item 8c.

**The Board voted approval.**

**Consideration of approval of the FY2018 Plan of Service and Budget for the Massachusetts Library System**

Commissioner Resnick motioned and CommissionerOchsenbein seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approves the FY2018 Plan of Service and Budget filed on December 1, 2016 for the Massachusetts Library System with a bottom line of $7,381,599 as detailed in agenda item #9.

**The Board voted approval.**

**Consideration of the approval of the FY2018 Plan of Service and Program and Budget for the Library of the Commonwealth**

Commissioner Murphy motioned and Commissioner Resnick seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approves the FY2018 Plan of Service and Budget filed on December 1, 2016 for the Boston Public Library as the Library for the Commonwealth with a bottom line of $2,501,883, including a personnel budget of $1,567,231 that exceeds the established 50% limit on personnel expenditures by $316,289.50 as detailed in agenda item #10.

**The Board voted approval.**

**Consideration of Proclamation for the Swampscott Public Library Centennial Celebration**

Director Carty read the Proclamation which will be presented to the library on January 21, 2017.

***WHEREAS***, the Swampscott Public Library has promoted knowledge, information, culture and learning both in the printed word and other media for the benefit of the people of Swampscott and the surrounding communities for a century; and

***WHEREAS***, General Electric Founder Elihu Thomsen donated the grounds on which the library now stands enabling it to move from Town Hall and become the Public Library for all Swampscott residents; and

***WHEREAS***, the Swampscott Public Library provides free access to technology, including computers with Internet, Wifi, and eBooks, allowing all residents to participate in the digital revolution and demonstrating that far from replacing libraries, technology has made libraries more vital to democratic communities; and

***WHEREAS***, Swampscott residents’ attendance at free library programs for all generations increased more than 31% in the last decade, proving that the library continues to be the heart of the community; and

***WHEREAS***, the Swampscott Public Library strives to benefit all members of the community and to that end has received over $121,700 in federal grants from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners to address local needs in early literacy, STEM, language learning, and lifelong learning; and

***WHEREAS***, the Swampscott Public Library stands as proud and vital today as it was at its founding a century ago thanks to its staff, trustees, volunteers and countless community supporters;

***THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED*** that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners recognizes the many achievements of these first hundred years of the Swampscott Public Library ***AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*** that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners enthusiastically supports the Swampscott Public Library as it journeys on with Swampscott residents into the next century of service.

Commissioner Resnick motioned and Commissioner Shesko seconded the Proclamation for the Swampscott Public Library Centennial Celebration.

**Presentation and discussion of the FY2018 Plan of Service and Program and Budget for the Massachusetts Center for the Book and Periodic Report**

Sharon Shaloo, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Center for the Book presented the following :

The Massachusetts Center for the Book, the Commonwealth affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, is a public-private partnership charged with the development, support, and promotion of cultural programing designed to advance the cause of books and reading and enhance the outreach potential of public libraries in Massachusetts. Funded by an appropriation from the General Court, Budget Line 7000-9508, administered by the Board of Library Commissioners.

**Current Programs Continuing in FY 2018 with level funding**

* Massachusetts *Letters About Literature*
* Massachusetts Book Awards (seeking funding from a partner organization)
* Massachusetts Literary Mapping/Literary Placemaking
* Statewide Calendar of Events for Massachusetts Libraries
* Massachusetts Family Literacy Project (development continues)
* Library of Congress Literacy Award: Massachusetts Prize (pending continued funding)
* State Center for the Book and Library of Congress Network Participation

Spring Coordinators’ Meeting @ LOC

National Book Festival in DC (funding must be resolved in FY18)

National Literary Map (steering committee)

Route 1 Reads (East Coast State Centers collaboration)

* Massachusetts/New England Festival/Conference Participation (Exhibits)

Boston Book Festival

Mass Library Association

Mass Reading Association/New England Association of Teachers of English

New England Library Association

New England Independent Booksellers Association

Northampton Book Fair

Martha’s Vineyard Book Festival

**Additional Request of $10,000, if received, will be allocated for resource development consultant.**

**Board/Council Development Continues in FY 18.**

**Any additional activity is grant dependent.**

**REPORT FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARY SYSTEM**

MLS Executive Director Gregory Pronevitz reported on the following items:

We are working with our attorney to begin the process of dissolving the Western Massachusetts Regional Library System Corporation as planned after the mortgage loan cancelation.

Representatives of MLS will be attending all of the Legislative Breakfasts.

**Upcoming events:**

**Post-Election, Post-Truth: Using Comprehensive Media Literacy to Assess and Evaluate News and Current Events - January 31, 2017, 3:30-4:30pm (online)**

How do we go beyond identifying “fake news” to help our communities make sense of the current news and information environment? Utilizing media literacy concepts to promote understanding, Allison Butler, steering committee member of Mass Media Literacy and director of the Media Literacy Certificate Program at UMass Amherst, will lead participants through exercises that can be used with students and community members. The webinar will include a resource guide for use with both colleagues and patrons.

## Academic ePublishing Symposium – February 23, 2017

Join your library colleagues throughout the Northeast for this lively panel presentation and discussion on eBook and eJournal publishing. Panelists from MIT, Springer-Nature and Taylor & Francis along with our moderator from BiblioLabs will discuss the current state of ePublishing and potential futures. We hope you will join us February 23 at College of the Holy Cross!

**Save the date!** MLS will also be conducting two listening tour events with a focus on how the library community can help address the problem of “fake news.” Come share your thoughts and hear what your colleagues are thinking!

MLS Marlborough office, **February 22**, 4-6pm

MLS Northampton office, **March 8**, 4-6pm

**REPORT FROM THE LIBRARY FOR THE COMMONWEALTH**

Anna Fahey-Flynn, Collaborative Services Manager at Boston Public Library, reported on the following items:

## Johnson Building

* Working on punch list items now, e.g. painting dings, installing glass display cases, securing employee only access areas, etc.

## Library for the Commonwealth services flyer

* Rejected by Boston Public Library’s Communications Office.
* Anna is meeting with Communications later today on redesign.

Hydra Connect Conference

* Held at BPL with Northeastern University, Tufts, WGBH and DPLA, was a great success.
* During a “lightning talk”, BPL developers announced they were dropping Hydra’s Fedora, the open source repository platform they have been using for Digital Commonwealth..

## Lydna.com

* Able to save Lynda.com until July 2017 by reallocating LFC funding.
* Will need to submit revised FY17 LFC budget.
* Funding will be reduced in digitization and retro-conversion lines.

## Library for the Commonwealth greeting card

* In effort to raise awareness of service to entire state, sent new year’s greeting cards to every BPL staff member paid from LFC funding.

## Prison libraries

* Met with state and Suffolk county librarians and Shelley Quezada from MBLC.
* Next step is BPL internal working group will meet to discuss scope and feasibility.

## Digital Commonwealth

* Digital imaging labs are all up and running in new space.
* Currently working on street plans for Lawrence Public Library and property photos from the Needham Public Library..

**COMMISSIONER ACTIVITIES**

Commissioner Resnick

* Mass Book Awards
* WMLA Breakfast
* Executive Committee

Commissioner Kronholm

* Mass Book Awards

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chairman Cluggish adjourned the January 5, 2017 monthly business meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners at 12:45 P.M.



Roland Ochsenbein

Secretary