**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS monthly regular meeting**

**Date:** Thursday, May 6, 2021

**Time:**  10:00 A.M.

**Place:**  Zoom Meeting

**Present:** Mary Ann Cluggish, Chair; Les Ball, Vice Chair; N. Janeen Resnick, Secretary; Deb Abraham; Vicky Biancolo; George Comeau, Esq.; Debby Conrad; Stacy DeBole; Mary Kronholm

**Staff Present:**

James Lonergan, Director; Liz Babbitt, State Aid Specialist; Celeste Bruno, Communications Director; Andrea Bunker, Library Building Specialist; Kate Butler, Electronic Services Specialist; Tanesha Deane, Contracts Specialist; Maura Deedy, Library Advisory Specialist; Tracey Dimant, Head of Operations & Budget; Rob Favini, Head of Library Advisory and Development; Paul Kissman, Library Information Systems Specialist; Rachel Masse, Assistant to the Director; Matthew Perry, Communications Specialist; Mary Rose Quinn, Head of State Programs / Government Liaison; Aparna Ramachandran, Data Analyst/ IT Support Specialist; Lauren Stara, Library Building Specialist

**Observers Present:**

Mary Ann Antonellis, Library Director, M.N. Spear Memorial Library, Shutesbury; Paul Brockelman, Town Manager, Amherst; Kathleen Bort, Library Director, Otis Library and Museum; Susan Brofman, Trustee, Otis Library and Museum; Eileen Chandler, Administrator, Cape Libraries Automated Materials Sharing Network (CLAMS); Lee Edwards, Trustee, Jones Library, Inc., Amherst; Kent Faeber, Friends of Jones Library, Jones Library Inc., Amherst; Ron Gagnon, Executive Director, North of Boston Library Exchange (NOBLE); Carol Gray, Resident, Amherst; Lynn Griesemer, President, Amherst Town Council, Amherst; Catherine Halpin, Collaborative Library Services Coordinator, Boston Public Library (BPL); Cyndi Harbeson, Head of Special Collections, Jones Library, Inc., Amherst; Terry Johnson, Resident, Amherst; Scott Kehoe, Library Resources Director, Massachusetts Library System (MLS); Alex Lefebvre, Trustee, Jones Library Inc., Amherst; Jeannette Lundgren, Network Administrator, CW MARS, Inc.; Sarah McKee, former Trustee and President of the Board of Trustees, Jones Library Inc., Amherst; Susie Mosher, Finance Committee, M.N. Spear Memorial Library, Shutesbury; Carol Pope, Resident, Amherst; Sharon Sharry, Library Director, Jones Library, Inc., Amherst; David Slater, Network Administrator, Old Colony Library Network (OCLN); Andrew Steinberg, Town Council, Amherst; Michael Vinkey, Resident, Shutesbury; Jim Walton, Resident, Shutesbury

**Meeting called to order by Chair Cluggish**

Chair Cluggish called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

Chair Cluggish stated that she is required to take a roll call of Commissioners to comply for the Open Meeting Law for remote meetings.

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| Commissioner Abraham- Yes | Commissioner Cluggish- Yes | Commissioner DeBole- Yes |
| Commissioner Ball- Yes | Commissioner Comeau- Yes | Commissioner Kronholm- Yes |
| Commissioner Biancolo- Yes | Commissioner Conrad- Yes | Commissioner Resnick- Yes |

Chair Cluggish explained that she would be making a motion for a consent agenda. A consent agenda is a board meeting practice that groups routine motions into the consent agenda. If there are no objections, the Chair can declare a motion passed, rather than counting votes for each motion separately.

Chair Cluggish moved to adopt a consent agenda for this meeting for agenda item #2, approval of minutes, agenda item #7, Consideration of Joining Networks, and item #15 to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Comeau seconded.

Chair Cluggish asked for a roll call vote of the Commissioners for this motion.

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| Commissioner Abraham- Yes | Commissioner Cluggish- Yes | Commissioner DeBole- Yes |
| Commissioner Ball- Yes | Commissioner Comeau- Yes | Commissioner Kronholm- Yes |
| Commissioner Biancolo- Yes | Commissioner Conrad- Yes | Commissioner Resnick- Yes |

**The motion passed.**

**Approval of Minutes from the regular monthly meeting: April 1 2021**

Chair Cluggish asked for a motion to approve the minutes under the consent agenda.

Commissioner Conrad moved and Commissioner Biancolo seconded to approve, with minor edits, the minutes from the April 1, 2021 Regular Monthly Meeting under the consent agenda.

**Hearing no objection, Chair Cluggish declared the motion passed under the consent agenda.**

**Chair’s Report**

Chair Cluggish presented the following report:

In the past month I participated in or observed the following Virtual Events:

* Spoke at four Legislative Day events
* Statewide PR Committee Meeting
* MLA Legislative Committee meeting
* Executive board meeting

What a remarkable month we have just had. Just one month ago, we were talking about the potential for major cuts in our Legislative Agenda asks and how to advocate for amendments, but House Ways and Means not only approved our Legislative Agenda in full but added funding. No amendments were needed. In their reports, James and Mary Rose will go over the funding in detail and also about funding from the Federal level.

Thank you to all of the Commissioners and Staff who were able to attend the MLA Legislative Days on Zoom. The four sessions went well, each lasting only 45 minutes; I spoke for 5 minutes at the end of each with the Call to Action. The events were well attended by Legislators and Legislative Aides. Legislators from the Library Caucus spoke eloquently on libraries and their importance. On Friday of last week, the MLA Legislative Committee discussed the virtual Legislative Day and potential ideas for a hybrid event next year, assuming we can be back at the State House next spring.

The annual MLA Conference will be held virtually for 3 days on May 17, 18, and 19. This year, Rachel has registered all of the Commissioners ahead of time, so you don’t have to do it yourself. Look over the program; there are a number of interesting speakers and programs. You should have received several invitations via email by now. Ordinarily the MBLC Director delivers the State of the State address at the Business meeting lunch and the Commissioners ordinarily sit together for lunch. Since we clearly won’t be gathering for the lunch this year, the business meeting is scheduled for May 19th Wednesday morning, from 9 am until 10:15 when James is scheduled to speak.

I am delighted to note that on today's agenda, we are beginning to award Construction Grants again. In addition, Agenda item number 9 is the first step in an exciting pilot project that Andrea Bunker and Lauren Stara will explain in full. This small libraries project has been in the planning for a number of years now.

**Commissioner Reports**

**Commissioner Ball**

* April 12: MLS Executive Committee
* April 25: MBLC Executive Committee
* 4 different Legislative Days

**Commissioner Biancolo**

* April 6: Attended Library Legislative Day (Western)
* April 13: Attended the Digital Commonwealth’s 15th Annual Conference online, theme of “The Politics of Collections”
* April 14: Attended “Facilitating Media Literacy with Civic Purpose” webinar from Bibliotheca
* April 21: Participated in “DEI Will Not Save Us: Bridging Healing & Justice as a Liberatory Practice” from Asian American Justice + Innovation Lab
* April 22: Participated in the SACL discussion on the use of ARPA funds
* April 27: Attended United for Libraries’ “Ask the Experts: Boards of Trustees, Friends Groups, and Foundations”
* April 27: Attended “MLS Live: Library for the Commonwealth”
* April 29: Observed the discussion of Lyndsay Forbes’s SACL Direct Grant Review Committee
* April 29: Attended Trustee Orientation with Maura Deedy, Liz Babbitt, and Rob Favini + made brief opening remarks
* May 5: Attended SACL Direct Grant Applications Review meeting

**Commissioner Conrad**

* April 2: National Library Week event at the Ventress Memorial Library. Interviewed by local community television.
* April 8: Library Legislation Day
* April 8: National Library Week Conversation with Dan Rather
* April 12: MLS Executive Board Meeting
* April 14: Friends sharing with Friends Coffee Hour
* April 22: SACL ARPA Funds Discussion

**Commissioner Kronholm**

* April 8: Legislative Day
* April 8: National Library Week program with Dan Rather
* April 12: WMLA Meeting
* April 20: PR Committee
* Pilot Construction Program
* MLA Legislative Break WESTERN MASS
* Participating in Legislative Breakfast and MLA legislative day
* Sent letters to house members for supporting the budget
* Received Citation from Senate for my work with/for Western Mass Libraries, initiated by my state senator, Adam Hinds

**Commissioner Abraham**

* April 8: Legislative Day
* April 8: National Library Week program with Dan Rather
* April 20: PR Committee
* Wrote letters to legislators in support of Build America's Libraries

**Commissioner DeBole**

* A virtual Legislative Day
* Friends sharing with Friends

**Commissioner Resnick**

* April 6: Participated in MLA Legislative Day – West by introducing Commissioners Biancolo and Kronholm
* April 7: Attended MLA Legislative Day – Central

            Sent thank you for attending emails to legislators

* April 12: Attended WMLA Board meeting, preparing for Summer Reading Incentives distribution to Mass. libraries
* April 27: Executive Board Meeting
* May 6: Attended several programs on Library Journal’s Day of Dialogue

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Director Lonergan presented the following report:

Meetings/activities since the last monthly Board meeting:

* April 1—ALA Washington Office Advocacy Briefing
* April 6-8—Presented legislative agenda briefing at each of four virtual Library Legislative Day events
* April 6 & 13—Met with staff members from Sen. Markey, Rep. Auchincloss and Rep. Clark’s offices
* April 8, 15, 22, 29—COSLA Exchanges (primarily focused on ARPA funds)
* April 9— MLA Executive Board meeting, virtual
* April 9—DPLA Community & Board Meeting, virtual
* April 12—MLS Executive Board Meeting, virtual
* April 14—MBLC staff webinar: Fostering Inclusion in the Workplace
* April 14— Council of State Library Agencies in the Northeast (COSLINE) meeting, virtual
* April 15—IMLS Research and Statistics User Interview
* April 15—COSLA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Engagement Group meeting, virtual
* April 20, 26, 28—Preliminary Meetings with T-Mobile, AT&T, and Verizon re: Hotspots
* April 22—State Advisory Council on Libraries ARPA Discussion
* April 22—ARPA Discussion with Boston Public Library Staff
* April 30—MLA Legislative Committee Meeting, virtual

Mary Rose will review the **House FY2022 budget**, including the earmarks on our agency budget line (7000-9101) as well as the process and timing for the rest of the FY2022 budget process.

MLA and MSLA held four virtual **Library Legislative Day** events for different regions of the Commonwealth on April 6-8(during National Library Week). Members of the legislature’s Library Caucus spoke at each session. I gave the legislative agenda briefings and Commissioner Cluggish issued a call to action at the end of each session.

Maria McCauley, the Cambridge Public Library director (and a member of the ALA Executive Board) and I met with staff from Sen. Markey and Reps. Auchincloss and Clark’s offices on April 6 and April 13 as part of **targeted outreach with members of Congress** organized by ALA’s Public Policy and Advocacy office. Celeste and Matt prepared a website (<https://mblclsta.com/>) for the meetings that details how we use IMLS funds in Massachusetts.

**ARPA Funding**: In keeping with IMLS guidance regarding the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and the focus on digital inclusion, we are in the early planning stages of creating a statewide WiFi hotspot program. We’ve held preliminary meetings with three hotspot vendors that are on statewide contracts: T-Mobile/Sprint, AT&T, and Verizon. We will be surveying libraries to gauge their interest in the program soon.

In addition, Rob Favini has interviewed library directors from the following communities hard hit by COVID 19: Boston, Brockton, Chelsea, Everett, Fall River, Framingham, Holyoke, Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn, and Springfield. The discussions are providing a greater understanding of current library operations and significant needs for the next 18 months. These conversations will continue. Shelley Quezada and Rob have also spoken to contacts at the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, the Perkins Library, and the Suffolk County House of Corrections library.

We also convened the State Advisory Council on Libraries (SACL) and the Public Relations Committee to brief them on the funding and to get initial feedback.

**LSTA Direct Grant Round**: MBLC’s LSTA consultants (Shelley, Lyndsay, Evan and Kate) have been extremely active coordinating the review of final LSTA Direct Grant applications with members of SACL. We received 41 applications representing $429,910 in grant funding requests. SACL will be meeting on May 5 to review application scoring and will make final recommendations to the Commissioners in July.

**MBLC at MLA Annual Conference:**

Lyndsay Forbes and Christi Farrar from MLS will be presenting ***It’s an Equity Issue: Why Public Libraries Should Have a Dedicated Teen Services Librarian* (May 19 at 12 pm).**

Shelley Quezada will be facilitating a program titled: *Inclusive Library Services: New Tools and Techniques to Reach People with Disabilities.* (Monday, May 17 at 10:15 am) Panelists: Carla Burke, Assistive Technology Coordinator, Brooks Free Library, Harwich; Erin Fragola, Library Outreach Coordinator, Perkins Library; Jonathan O’Dell, Assistive Technology and Training Specialist, Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Maura Deedy will be facilitating a program titled: *Does the Mayor Have a Library Card: Understanding Local Government and Making Libraries Important to it*. (May 19 at 12 pm) Panelists: Mehreen N. Butt, Wakefield Town Councilor; Nicole LaChapelle, Mayor, City of Easthampton; John Mangiaratti, Acton Town Manager.

I will be presenting the **State of the State** address at the MLA Annual Business meeting on Wednesday, May 19 at 9:00 a.m.

Lyndsay Forbescontinues work on the **Transforming Teen Services project** (IMLS funded grant via YALSA), currently co-facilitating a 5-week multi-modal online course on educational equity with MLS consultant Christi Farrar. Through readings, videos, individual work and live weekly online discussions, participants learn how Connected Learning as a concept goes hand-in-hand with the aim of educational equity, and how both are foundational to successful library service. The course is aimed at library staff who work with teens. There are two cohorts – a morning and an afternoon that have been extremely popular. There is currently a wait list for interested participants.

As a member of the Digital Commonwealth Board, Evan Knight helped plan and attended the April 13 **Digital Commonwealth’s** “The Politics of Collections” virtual conference. The event featured a keynote titled "Politics, Power, Ethics, and Inclusion: A Call to Action to Reframe Library Practices?" by Ginny Steel, the Norman and Armena Powell University Librarian in the UCLA Library. In addition, John Bracken, Executive Director, Digital Public Library of America presented a session titled "Digital Public Library of America: Equity, Inclusion in 2021." The event had 350 attendees and the feedback has been very good. More information, including presentation slides and recordings, is available here: <https://digitalcommonwealth.wildapricot.org/page-1856256>.

As a member of State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) Evan evaluated 43 proposals totaling $515,000 to their **Veteran’s Heritage Grant program**. 19 were accepted by the board, as the program budget is $200,000. Some projects are for monuments, memorials, or cemetery projects, while others include library/museum/oral history/or public arts-type projects. Among the latter type of proposals approved are the following institutions:

* Revere Society for Cultural and Historical Preservation
* United States Naval Shipbuilding Museum
* Peabody Historical Society and Museum
* Pittsfield Office of Cultural Development
* Old Sturbridge Village
* Massachusetts Archaeological Society, Inc.
* Lee Historical Society
* Dyer Memorial Library, Abington

In his role as **COSTEP MA** (Coordinated Statewide Emergency Preparedness Massachusetts) co-chair, Evan was involved in the planning and hosting of the April 29virtual event *Pandemic Safety at Cultural Heritage Institutions*. The event drew over 137 registrants with the vast majority being public library directors or academic librarians in MA. Evan shared the event with the Massachusetts Municipal Association who tweeted about the event (<https://twitter.com/massmunicipal/status/1387031610806218754>) and added it on their website calendar: <https://www.mma.org/mblc-co-hosting-pandemic-safety-at-cultural-heritage-institutions-on-april-29/>.

Paul Kissman drafted and coordinated the agency’s **Emergency Connectivity Fund for Educational Connections and Devices to Address the Homework Gap During the Pandemic** reply comments and submitted them to the Federal Communications Commission on our behalf on April 23. Our comments supported those of the American Library Association and advocated for rules that would be flexible, minimize the administrative burden for applicants and would not require compliance with the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA).

The FY2019 Network Annual Survey/Report has been published and can be found here: <https://mblc.state.ma.us/programs-and-support/library-statistics/networks.php>. For FY2020 the survey was moved to an online format. In this new format survey data can be used to create a more dynamic dashboard beginning with FY2020 (e.g. using Tableau) rather than a static PDF.

**Trustee Orientations:** We launched the Spring season of Trustee Orientations with an increased focus on board dynamics and advocacy story telling techniques. We had 25 participants at the session on April 29. Two more sessions are scheduled: on May 11 from 6:00-8:00 P.M. and on May 25 from 2:00-4:00 P.M.

**Trustee Deep Dives:** The hour-long programs provide an in-depth overview of a topic and provide time for conversation and questions. These are topics that are common advisory questions and topics that we can’t explore in depth during orientations. These will be presented twice a month, during and after work hours.

In April, the topic was Strategic Planning with MLS consultants Michele Eberle and Kristi Chadwick. They brought their expertise and understanding of the planning process, with COVID considerations. Past topics include hiring a new director and space planning.

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| **Program** | **Date/Time** | **Attendance** |
| Trustee Deep Dives: Strategic Planning | 4/6 at 10 A.M. | 36 |
| Trustee Deep Dives: Strategic Planning | 4/22 at 6 P.M. | 34 |
| **Total** | | **70** |

**MPLCP**: At their April meeting, the East Bridgewater Public Library Board of Trustees voted to withdraw their application from the 2016-2017 construction grant round. They were first on the waiting list, so Amherst is now first on the list and Melrose is second.

Subject to the Commissioners’ approval and funding being available in our FY2022 annual capital budget, the Melrose Public Library will be offered a provisional grant this July.

The **Communications Team** is pleased to announce that the **Boston Pride** has joined the summer reading partnership. Pride is one of the four charter franchises of the National Women's Hockey League and they recently became the first two-time winners of the Isobel Cup.

The Pride player for the summer poster, outstanding reader certificate and bookmark is Jillian Dempsey. She is the team’s captain, a Harvard graduate, Massachusetts native and is featured in the story we frequently use at summer events: *How Blades became a Bruin*. In the story she is credited with giving Blades his name. We are honored to welcome her and Pride to the summer partnership.

The Bruins player for the summer is Charlie Coyle. He’s a Weymouth native and we’re hopeful that a few visits with him may be possible later in the summer. The theme for summer is *Tails and Tales*. Our Bruins interpretation of this theme features Blades (since he has a tail) and the *How Blades became a Bruin* story (tale). We are developing the story into a booklet, Blades will be featured on a poster, and on the outstanding reader certificate. Libraries order all Bruins/Pride posters, bookmarks and other materials and receive them at no cost.

We’ve also launched the 2nd annual First Lady of the Commonwealth and Blades reading challenge. This year we’ve integrated the challenge into Beanstack—the online tracking software that the MBLC funds. We’ve created Bruins badges that kids earn as they meet their goals.

The team is also working with Kate, Paul and a vendor on the complete re-design of the consumer portal (<https://libraries.state.ma.us/>) The portal is the one-stop place where residents can access statewide products, the statewide virtual calendar of events and learn about local library services. All paid campaigns lead to the portal, and it is an important way to connect new users with library services. The team coordinated with Buyer to launch a survey designed to reach non-library users and is in the process of translating the survey to get it out to a broader audience including current library users.

The Communications team also continues its partnership with the Council on Healthy Aging. Matt has worked closely with them to coordinate two workshops, Healthy Aging Reframed, which will be held May 6 and 7.

**EBSCO Donation**: I was contacted in early April by representatives from EBSCO regarding their interest in donating to the MBLC to support our work. EBSCO has offices in Ipswich and Topsfield and has made similar donations over the last few years in a few states where they have close connections. While we appreciated the generous offer, given we will soon be running a procurement for statewide e-resources with MLS, we recommended that they consider donating to MLA and MSLA. MLA and MSLA welcomed the $35,000 donation and will split it to fund projects including building leadership skills and to support equity, diversity and inclusion efforts.

**Staff News**: We have hired a new Contracts Specialist: Tanesha Deane. Her first day was Monday, April 5. She comes to us from the Department of Revenue, and she previously worked for the Registry of Motor Vehicles. Please join us in welcoming Tanesha!

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Mary Rose Quinn, Head of State Programs/Government Liaison presented the following report:

The House approved unanimously their version of the Fiscal Year 2022 spending plan on April 29. The Senate Ways and Means proposal is due out within the next two weeks, and will be decided prior to Memorial Day, the last day of May.

The House funding for the MBLC budget lines met the Legislative Agenda requested amounts for six of the seven budget lines. The Aid to Regional Libraries line (7000-9401) received an increase of one million dollars over the FY 2021 budget, more than $624,000 higher than the Agenda requested amount for that line. There were two earmarks attached to the Agency line (7000-9101), adding $75,000 to the bottom line over the Agenda request. The [House Budget in April](https://malegislature.gov/Budget/HouseBudget) follows the [Governor’s House 1](https://malegislature.gov/Budget/FY2022/GovernorsBudget) budget posted in January and is included below:

7000-9101 For the operation of the board of library commissioners; provided further, that not less than $25,000 shall be expended for the city of Fitchburg for repairs to the boiler at the Fitchburg public library; and provided further, that not less than $50,000 shall be expended for a feasibility study to rehabilitate the former Gloucester Free Library............................ $1,702,272

7000-9401 For state aid to regional public libraries; provided, that the board of library commissioners may provide quarterly advances of funds as it deems appropriate under clauses (1) and (3) of section 19C of chapter 78 of the General Laws to regional public library systems throughout each fiscal year, in compliance with the office of the comptroller’s regulations on state grants, 815 C.M.R. 2.00; provided further, that notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, in calculating the fiscal year 2022 distribution of funds appropriated in this item, the board shall employ the population figures used to calculate the fiscal year 2021 distribution; provided further, that the board shall provide funds for the continued operation of a single regional library system to serve the different geographic regions of the commonwealth in both eastern and western Massachusetts and their residents; and provided further, that notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the library of the commonwealth shall receive not less than 47.5 cents for each resident of the commonwealth........................................... $13,516,000

7000-9402 For the talking book library at the Worcester public library .......................... $496,732

7000-9406 For the Perkins Braille and Talking Book Library in the city known as the town of Watertown, including the operation of the machine lending agency ............................. $2,828,147

7000-9501 For state aid to public libraries; provided, that notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, no city or town shall receive funds from this item in any year when the appropriation of the city or town for free public library service is below an amount equal to 102.5 per cent of the average of the appropriations for free public library services for the 3 years immediately preceding; provided further, that notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the board of library commissioners may grant waivers in excess of the waiver limit set forth in the second paragraph of section 19A of chapter 78 of the General Laws for fiscal year 2022 for not more than 1 year; provided further, that notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, of the amount by which this item exceeds the amount appropriated under item 7000-9501 of section 2 of chapter 194 of the acts of 1998, funds shall be distributed under the guidelines of the municipal equalization grant program, the library incentive grant program and the nonresident circulation offset program; and provided further, that notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, any payment made under this item shall be deposited with the treasurer of the city or town and held in a separate account and shall be expended by the public library of that city or town without appropriation ............................................ $13,000,000

7000-9506 For the technology and automated resource sharing networks .................... $4,518,373

7000-9508 For the Massachusetts Center for the Book, Inc., chartered as the Commonwealth Affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress; provided, that the Massachusetts Center for the Book, Inc. shall continue its work as a public-private partnership ............ $300,000

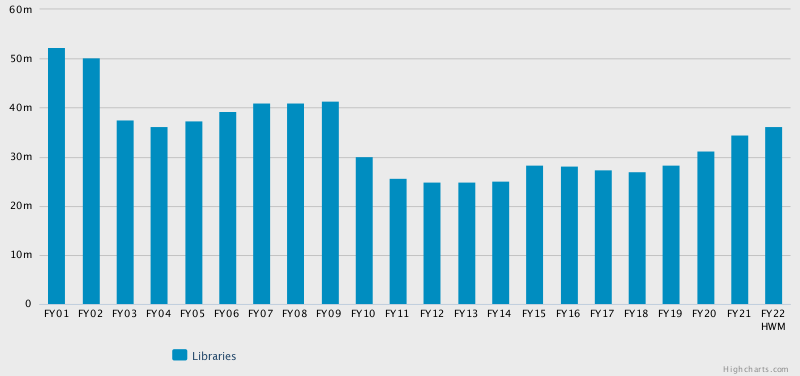
We are nearing the halfway mark in the FY 2022 budget cycle. There are still several steps remaining in the process.

## [FY 2022 Budget](https://malegislature.gov/Budget)

1. [Governor's Budget](https://malegislature.gov/Budget/GovernorsBudget)
2. [House Ways & Means Budget](https://malegislature.gov/Budget/HouseWaysMeansBudget)
3. [House Debate](https://malegislature.gov/Budget/HouseDebate)
4. [House Budget](https://malegislature.gov/Budget/HouseBudget)
5. [Senate Ways & Means Budget](https://malegislature.gov/Budget/SenateWaysMeansBudget)
6. [Senate Debate](https://malegislature.gov/Budget/SenateDebate)
7. [Senate Budget](https://malegislature.gov/Budget/SenateBudget)
8. [Conference Committee](https://malegislature.gov/Budget/ConferenceCommittee)
9. [Final Budget](https://malegislature.gov/Budget/FinalBudget)

The Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center has updated its [**Mass Budget Browser-Libraries**](https://archive.massbudget.org/browser/subcat.php?id=Libraries)toprovide information about the House Ways & Means budget, which, for MBLC budget lines, represents the final House budget figures (less $75,000 in earmarks attached to the Agency line).

(From MA Budget and Policy Center) Adjusted for Inflation.



Mid-month revenue projections for April are skewed due to several factors related to last year’s figures because of measures enacted this year and last designed to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. Historical comparisons, therefore, between April 2021 results and prior years are extremely problematic. Examples of such measures include, but are not limited to: the extension of the income tax filing and payment deadline from April 15th, 2020 to July 15, 2020; the extension of the first estimated payment installment to July 15, 2020; penalty waivers for certain corporate excise returns and payments due in 2020; the late start to the 2021 filing season; the extension of the income tax filing and payment deadline from April 15, 2021 to May 17, 2021; the extension of the payment deadline for certain regular sales tax, meals tax and room occupancy excise payments to May 20, 2021. Full month revenue details will be distributed to Commissioners as soon as they are available from the Department of Revenue (DOR). In the meantime. total tax collections for the mid-April month-to-date period were $1.757 billion, up $877 million or 99.7% versus the same period in April 2020. Income taxes totaled $1.143 billion, up $559 million or 95.7% versus the same period in April 2020. Sales & Use taxes were $130 million, up $63 million or 95.4% versus the same period in April 2020. Corporate & Business taxes were $416 million, up $253 million or 155.0% versus the same period in April 2020. Other taxes totaled $69 million, up $2 million or 3.7% versus the same period in April 2020.

The American Library Association (ALA) continues its outreach to the Massachusetts library community requesting that Massachusetts Library Association (MLA) members and others contact the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation regarding support for the Build America’s Libraries Act (BALA). If passed, either as a stand-alone bill or as part of the larger infrastructure bill, BALA would provide funding to improve library buildings and infrastructure in some of our most underserved communities.

The MLA Legislative Committee hosted four Virtual Legislative Events this year. Library Legislative Day traditionally is a one-day event held at the State House but moved online last year and this due to COVID 19. Day One (April 6) featured Western Massachusetts Library Advocates; Day Two (April 7) featured Central Massachusetts Library Advocates; Day Three (April 8) in the morning featured libraries from Boston, Metrowest, and North of Boston and in the afternoon featured libraries from South of Boston, the Cape and Islands. Attendance totaled 350 and turnout among legislators was high, especially from the Western Massachusetts delegations. The Committee plans on including an online component to Legislative Days in the future even when a return to the State House for in-person events is again possible.

The MLA Annual Conference remains digital this year. The MLA Legislative Committee each year develops at least one program for the Conference. This year, the Committee is hosting John Chrastka, Executive Director at EveryLibrary, From the MLA Legislative Committee:

*MLA and MSLA have been working with John Chrastka, Executive Director at EveryLibrary, to promote Massachusetts libraries among elected officials. John is presenting on May 18th at 9:30am on “Expand your Library’s Advocacy Potential to the Max” at MLA’s Virtual Annual Conference. If you ever wonder how to get folks involved in library advocacy, this program is for you! He will discuss how all stakeholders that make your library successful have an important role to play in library advocacy.  As we face budget issues at all levels of government, your community’s advocacy is key in building support among elected and other officials who control the finances.  Advocacy is not difficult.  It is perfectly legal.  And it is essential for your library’s future.  Come and hear which roles are most appropriate for yourself, other staff members, library trustees, friends, and patrons in supporting your library at both the local and statewide level. If you haven’t registered, it’s not too late!  Visit the*[*conference website*](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.google.com/url?q=https:**Awww.masslib.org*EmailTracker*LinkTracker.ashx*linkAndRecipientCode*3DC7m69xMSDetSjYf56XyZUFV9v1Dx5GbY9yp8PqKGJ3Rv5Gf5Zh21TTFmESLbOyZ5k0Rua78zjGzB2UzcyUJVkOyN7pjEWIdQcU2*252bfw61m8A*253d&sa=D&source=editors&ust=1620069584868000&usg=AOvVaw2UWIZ7KPtkj1ttCQlPRyu-__;Ly8vLz8lJSU!!CUhgQOZqV7M!xGK8u1Ew6NuQetJdEpQgTp2JCoTo-xV0H6lCQOpdpu3K6MSHwXWfy5dyNJ7Oo0qgCYIIboo$)*to learn more!   
We hope to see you get digital!*[*Get registered!*](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.google.com/url?q=https:**Awww.masslib.org*EmailTracker*LinkTracker.ashx*linkAndRecipientCode*3D*252fmS6pI12*252bXj3FzZ4u5rz4O8x7b18ZVN85Ri9ekjOJtxlrY9C35zFjQqoVA9xxESrQ5E4queDJQeOY3M1AAi*252b7Iu6S3oE7uhactwRVqBQcd4*253d&sa=D&source=editors&ust=1620069584868000&usg=AOvVaw0usZDtEUaG2e7XgufcMtzS__;Ly8vLz8lJSUlJQ!!CUhgQOZqV7M!xGK8u1Ew6NuQetJdEpQgTp2JCoTo-xV0H6lCQOpdpu3K6MSHwXWfy5dyNJ7Oo0qgtzlEV_M$)

Important Legislative Committees to continue tracking:   
[Joint Committee on Ways and Means](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J39). The House and Senate Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Ranking Minority Members of both chambers make up the Conference Committee that will negotiate the House and Senate budget differences and develop the final budget that will be voted in each branch before being sent to the Governor for his signature. [Michael J. Rodrigues](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/MJR0), Chair, [Cindy F. Friedman](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/CFF0) Vice Chair, and [Patrick M. O'Connor](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/PMO) (Ranking Minority) in the Senate and [Aaron Michlewitz](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/AMM1), Chair, [Ann-Margaret Ferrante](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/AMF1), Vice Chair, and [Todd M. Smola](https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/TMS2) (Ranking Minority) in the House are the members of the Conference Committee for the FY 2022 budget.

The [Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J30) oversees the seven MBLC budget lines and the [Joint Committee on Education](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J14) has oversight of library legislation. The House Chair of Tourism is Representative Carole Fiola of Fall River and the Senate Chair is Senator Edward Kennedy of Lowell. The House Chair of Education is Representative Alice Peisch of Wellesley and the Senate Chair is Senator Jason Lewis of Winchester.

The [Joint Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J32) is responsible for the various bonding bills that are introduced by the Legislature and the Governor, including the construction bond bills that support the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program (MPLCP). And the [Joint Committee on Revenue](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J26) will be important should the Commissioners look for additional funding for construction, infrastructure, or other library initiatives at some point in the future.

* [Joint Committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and Cybersecurity](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J33)
* [Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J12)
* [Joint Committee on Higher Education](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J29)
* [Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J43)
* [Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J10)
* [Joint Committee on Public Health](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J16)
* [Joint Committee on Public Service](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J23)
* [Joint Committee on Racial Equity, Civil Rights, and Inclusion](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J34)
* [Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy](https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J37)

**Consideration of Joining Networks Grant Award Recommendation**

Paul Kissman, Library Information Systems Specialist stated that the Joining Networks grant opportunity allows public libraries in municipalities under 10,000 to join an automated resource sharing network for the first time.

This grant complements the Small Libraries in Networks program, funded out of account 7000-9506, which offsets the annual network membership fees for small public libraries that are members of networks.

The C/W MARS network will add the Windsor Free Public Library, Windsor, and the Phillips Free Public Library, Philipston as members during FY 2021. This grant provides for network first year joining fee and offsets the first year’s annual assessment for Windsor and Phillipston.

Chair Cluggish asked for a motion to approve the minutes under the consent agenda.

Commissioner Resnick moved and Commissioner Bianoclo seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approves the Joining Networks Grant to C/W MARS totaling $6,520.

**Hearing no objection, Chair Cluggish declared the motion passed under the consent agenda.**

**Consideration of approval of a Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program (MPLCP) Provisional Grant Award for the Jones Library, Amherst**

Andrea Bunker, Library Building Specialist stated that a Construction Project may either be a project to construct a new facility, an addition/renovation to an existing building that may or may not add space, but does involve a significant reorganization of functional space, or a joint library project that will involve construction of a facility by two or more municipalities.

Ms. Bunker is requesting a provisional grant award to the Town of Amherst for the Jones Library in the amount of $13,871,314 for its public library construction project.

This award is subject to the securing of local funding, execution of a contract between the MBLC and the Town of Amherst, and the compliance of the library and community with all of the assurances as found in the Code of Massachusetts Regulations (605 CMR 6.00) that governs the MPLCP. The town has six months, or until Friday, November 7, 2021, to obtain its local funding.

After the contract is executed, MPLCP Library Building Specialists will work closely with Jones Library, Amherst during the completion of a schematic design and into design development.

Commissioner Resnick moved and Commissioner Ball seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approves a provisional grant award totaling $13,871,314 to the Jones Library construction project in the Town of Amherst. The date by which this project must accept their award is November 7, 2021.

Chair Cluggish asked for a roll call vote of the Commissioners for this motion.

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| Commissioner Abraham- Yes | Commissioner Cluggish- Yes | Commissioner DeBole- Yes |
| Commissioner Ball- Yes | Commissioner Comeau- Yes | Commissioner Kronholm- Yes |
| Commissioner Biancolo- Yes | Commissioner Conrad- Yes | Commissioner Resnick- Yes |

**The motion passes.**

**Consideration of approval for a MPLCP Small Library Pilot Project**

Lauren Stara, Library Building Specialist presented the Small Library Pilot Project. We are proposing a pilot project to construct a basic prototype library in a town of under 2,000 population. The project will be based on [*Library Space: A Planning Resource for Librarians*](https://mblc.state.ma.us/libraryspace) developed by Sasaki in collaboration with the MPLCP.

The first step will be identifying potential applicants. There are 59 libraries in the Commonwealth that have populations of under 2,000 and that have not had a project funded with MPLCP funds in the past. We know of at least three libraries who are interested in the pilot project, but we need to be transparent and make the opportunity available to all eligible libraries.

They will have to agree to certain restrictions:

1. The project must be new construction
2. The design will be flexible, modular in concept, and will be based on the planning tool
3. The building will be no-frills and basic, with functionality as the primary concern
4. They must have a suitable site available
   1. Owned by the town
   2. Relatively flat and accessible
   3. Not in a floodplain
   4. No existing structures or hazardous materials cleanup required (or if these exist, the town must be willing to bear the cost of this outside of the pilot project)
5. MPLCP staff will be a working member of the design team and much more involved in the entire process than in the traditional grant process
6. The town must agree to approve local funding at a much earlier point than in the traditional grant process; the MPLCP will provide 75% of eligible costs

After serious eligible applicants are identified, we will undertake a rapid qualification and selection process for one pilot town/library. Others will be notified that, if successful, this type of project will be offered in a future grant round for additional towns.

Concurrently with this, we will be conducting an RFI for architectural firms interested in participating.

1. Development of a set of best practices for library design. This was completed in November 2020 with the release of [*Library Space: A Planning Resource for Librarians*](https://mblc.state.ma.us/libraryspace)
   1. We will first do an RFI (Request for Information) to gather information about potential processes and costs for this step. *[the results of the RFI prompted us to bypass the Design Guidelines and go straight to the pilot project]*
2. After the town is chosen, adaption of the *concept* to the specific site and requirements of that town, following designer selection and bidding laws
3. Construction

We have funds budgeted for FY21, 22, and 23 to cover this project. The funds ($500,000 the first year, $1m the second year, and $1.5m the third year) were based on an early projection of $3m for the pilot. This figure will be adjusted as more information becomes available through the RFIand construction bidding process. At this late date, it’s likely that we won’t spend the $500,000 this FY, but we hope to conduct the pilot project application and review process and select a pilot town by the end of calendar 2021, and start the programming and preliminary design process by the end of FY21.

Timeline for the Pilot Project

* 2015: Site visits to 40+ small town libraries
* 2016 – 2017: Public Libraries in Massachusetts: An Evolving Ecosystem
* 2018: Research into modular/prefab construction
* 2019: Research into the MSBA’s Model Schools
* 2019 – 2020: Survey and focus groups with past MPLCP participants
* 2019 – 2020: Library Space: A Planning Resource for Librarians

Timeline 2021:

* Discussions with the Inspector General’s office and the Attorney General’s office
* Research into Design Guideline documents
* Request for Information (RFI) issued
* Interviews with 6 responding architecture firms
* Focus Group

– 39 attendees

– 7 towns

* Draft Program Notice and Letter of Intent/Preliminary Application

There are 63 towns in MA with 2,000 or fewer official residents, and seven of these have had MPLCP grants in the past: Buckland, Erving, Leverett, Monterey, Pelham, Wendell, & Westhampton. We sent invitations to library directors in the remaining towns, and if the town has no library, the invitation went to a town administrator or select board members. We encouraged them to invite town officials and trustees to attend as well.

Seven towns were represented: Blandford, Oakham, Otis, Peru, Petersham, Richmond, & Shutesbury. Several participants were quite vocal about their town’s desire to retain a historic library building, and they were disappointed that the pilot project would be new construction only. We know that we will have to address the historic building issue in small towns, but our primary goal with the pilot is to control costs, and that’s not possible when dealing with a historic building.

Commissioner Resnick moved and Commissioner Ball seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approves a pilot project to plan, design, and construct a new library building in a Massachusetts town of fewer than 2,000 residents. The goal is to build a functional, flexible, durable, and economical library that will serve the town’s residents for a minimum of 20 years.

Chair Cluggish asked for a roll call vote of the Commissioners for this motion.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Commissioner Abraham- Yes | Commissioner Cluggish- Yes | Commissioner DeBole- Yes |
| Commissioner Ball- Yes | Commissioner Comeau- Yes | Commissioner Kronholm- Yes |
| Commissioner Biancolo- Yes | Commissioner Conrad- Yes | Commissioner Resnick- Yes |

**The motion passes.**

**Report from Massachusetts Library System (MLS)**

Scott Kehoe, Library Resources Director, presented the following report:

**Strategic Initiative 1**

MLS ensures its services are sustainable, prioritize member needs, and equitably serve all member types.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Goal | Actions | Measurement of Success | **Monthly work toward Goal** |
| MLS ensures service value to all member types. | MLS will develop a guide to its levels of services, clarifying what benefits are available to each member type; the guide will be shared broadly and in several formats | *Member library staff at a broad level will have a greater understanding of MLS services and resources.* | Began work with external consultants on search for a Learning Management System, which will host varied learning opportunities for our members. |
| MLS will continue to strengthen its partnerships and collaborations to allow MLS to focus on what it does uniquely well. | MLS will establish a partnership process, including a rubric, liaisons, expectations, policy and evaluations of current and new partnerships for opportunities and overlap. | *MLS will report out annually on the value of their partnerships.* | Began putting processes in place to track and define our partnership work. |
| New Services will be designed to deliver the greatest statewide impact, able to expand and contract due to available funding and need. | MLS will create guidelines and criteria for new and established services for value and impact. | *As an element of service review or introduction, MLS will be able to detail the impact of the service.* |  |

# Strategic Initiative 2

MLS empowers leaders to emerge at every level of library service, connecting staff throughout the stages of their careers.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Goal | Actions | Measurement of Success | **Monthly work toward Goal** |
| MLS promotes excellence and continuity by providing professional development, conversation and community around leadership. | MLS develops a process for reaching out to members/training participants, asking them to report on how MLS programs have helped them. | *Member library staff recognize the transformative value of building and maintaining a professional network.* | Project SET program evaluation work.  Discussion with representative from Simmons University on opportunities for collaboration on leadership opportunities for Emerging Professionals. |
| Leadership, professional development, and networking opportunities will have flexible offerings in order to include participants from various library types, library sizes, and resources. | Linked to S.I.1, G.1: MLS will develop a guide to its levels of service, clarifying what benefits are available to each member type; l the guide will be shared broadly and in several formats. | *MLS will report to member libraries on an annual basis the number of professional development opportunities via type of opportunity, intended audience, training modality and type of library.* | Researched and contracted with external trainers to present workshops on leadership and management topics (classes will be offered May – September 2021) |

# Strategic Initiative 3

MLS will take the lead in facilitating important conversations, and support member-facing initiatives focused on DEI: diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, and social justice work.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Goal | Actions | Measurement of Success | **Monthly work toward Goal** |
| MLS will integrate the core values of diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, and social justice into its policies, practices, procedures, and programs. | In collaboration with partner organizations, MLS will explore hiring a coordinator/consultant to support the membership in this work.  MLS will work to align internal policies and procedures to the tenets of DEI. | *MLS will demonstrate both increased resource allocation as well as substantive, visible progress in representation throughout MLS services.* | Commonwealth eBook Collection received CARES Act funding. (link to Press Release) |
| Following the lead of trusted experts, MLS will build awareness in using the DEI tenets with member library staff to identify and eliminate barriers to inclusive library services. | In partnership with member libraries, research and tailor a DEI evaluation framework for member libraries. | *Member library staff are confident in using the core values of DEI with their communities.* | Researched and contracted with external trainers to offer workshops on DEI topics (classes will be offered April – August 2021) |

# Additional monthly notes:

* Our third MLS Live, with the topic of Statewide Delivery, had over 60 people in attendance and over 100 registered. We covered some basic service information and dedicated most of the time to answering attendee questions about the service. The recording has been posted to our Vimeo page. Betsy Meaden, Business and HR Director, and Mandy Malikowski, Delivery and Communications Coordinator, are reaching out to answer questions about specifics at individual libraries.

**Report from the Library for the Commonwealth (LFC)**

Catherine Halpin, Collaborative Library Services Coordinator presented the following report.

**Boston Public Library goes fine free**

Two weeks ago, Boston Mayor Kim Janey announced that the Boston Public Library will permanently eliminate late fines for patrons of all ages, once approved by the Board of Trustees later this month. The BPL had already [eliminated late fines for patrons under 18](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fr20.rs6.net%2Ftn.jsp%3Ff%3D0019dN9UA_lslDnYLZ93SNEyCegLf3MqqSpkwCw33n7s-Vs0W_PI2jqyjaOkT2J1I8RuHY24SN9TT8mzWRtfLJCzldWK7HtNi5b4DoUAV5wHXY_d_VxzPaDVcBSmuG7LPi9I8HG7KDwcH3SBnOpkteRULhuBHp3WSAtXObp4xfWRUcj1CJz1K__nWgwvW-8TvOitTDfHPpLq6U919NmpVyriwnZILJsZIUtq8M8O1NObF2WDCLyqR3QfqOw6U0saFWv68Le092qdAY%3D%26c%3DoQDyyUPnVWnYdLwiriY1qYjO9euWXNbzpaV75-a_BA2UfpcCUtI2ZQ%3D%3D%26ch%3Dz7Faj2GdjDZO5ps0pDou59pO5odPeGKOH5g8Rid3fbZ9ksJLwUZP-A%3D%3D&amp;data=04%7C01%7Cchalpin%40bpl.org%7C48d8eca7ed5a4533d4ce08d90030096b%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C637541028587253742%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&amp;sdata=5NdW4GgPQqWwN0dNrMYi6kWuDSeKQ9Y6NgrfEJ3NlEM%3D&amp;reserved=0) in a policy implemented in October 2019.

In the wake of COVID-19, the BPL implemented a [moratorium](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fr20.rs6.net%2Ftn.jsp%3Ff%3D0019dN9UA_lslDnYLZ93SNEyCegLf3MqqSpkwCw33n7s-Vs0W_PI2jqyoDGVAIN74eJjp-MZqE_Y9sd84O0eITzineTkmt75bUx0K4h8zbK5m7Q_HEMij5DMZo4uvEnjw0YIZoENEgrvWsf1jcX0XqNDlbhePsn066rrT88ZEYd6njm9ZYB36iBhgQ99EUceLzEW9IH0IiYC0aChtY_iqmm7bgyc0_aMyYv%26c%3DoQDyyUPnVWnYdLwiriY1qYjO9euWXNbzpaV75-a_BA2UfpcCUtI2ZQ%3D%3D%26ch%3Dz7Faj2GdjDZO5ps0pDou59pO5odPeGKOH5g8Rid3fbZ9ksJLwUZP-A%3D%3D&amp;data=04%7C01%7Cchalpin%40bpl.org%7C48d8eca7ed5a4533d4ce08d90030096b%7Cfa735c71d7954c01b0ae09fa7415b2b1%7C0%7C0%7C637541028587253742%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&amp;sdata=hP0f8pOsVCmlpevOtOuRGNRpR5cwohthpOEE1ah1nzc%3D&amp;reserved=0) on assessing late fines in March 2020. The policy change to permanently eliminate overdue fines will remove barriers and increase access to BPL resources for all patrons.

Under this policy change, the BPL will also remove all pending overdue fines from patrons’ accounts. Moving forward, patrons will not face monetary penalties for returning books late, although they will still be required to return any overdue books in order to check out additional materials. While card holders will no longer incur fines for late returns, they will still be responsible for replacement costs if a book is lost or not returned.

**MLS Live**

On April 27, I joined Sarah Sogigian in an online Zoom conversation as part of the Massachusetts Library System’s series, MLS Live. We discussed the role of LFC as part of the library landscape in Massachusetts, the types of services and resources available, and how MLS and LFC work together to support statewide library services.

**Libraries and COVID-19 Discussion**

Rob Favini, Head of Library Advisory & Development spoke about the three trends emerging:

* Need for staff training in the areas of workforce development and use of inhouse technology (always an issue).
* Need for flexible indoor and outdoor programming equipment – stages, partitions, tents, portable sound systems…

Interest in accessibly – hot spots, reaching out to community members with disabilities and language barriers, ability to facilitate pop up libraries, telehealth equipment, facilitating social workers in the library

* Working to get positions back – furloughed positions were accepted to ward off layoffs, struggle to get those back.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Commissioner Abraham** made a statement about how great libraries did during the pandemic. She said that it is great now that the budget is good but knows that there will come a time when people start to say we didn’t have libraries the whole time so why do we need them now? How as a Board do, we respond to these negative comments?

Commissioner Abraham made a suggestion to have a special board meeting to talk about how to move forward after the pandemic.

Members of a citizen group that has been working to have Amherst provide a town-wide referendum on the Jones Library project spoke as did the chair of the Jones Library Board of Trustees and the president of the town council.

**Speakers during the public comment included:**

* Sarah McKee, former Trustee and President of the Board of Trustees, Jones Library Inc., Amherst
* Carol Gray, Resident, Amherst
* Sharon Sharry, Library Director, Jones Library, Inc., Amherst
* Alex Lefebvre, Trustee, Jones Library Inc., Amherst;
* Lynn Griesemer, President, Amherst Town Council, Amherst

**Commissioner Comeau** stated that this is a local issue. He said that the while the Commissioners understand the situation, it isn’t the responsibility of the Board to get involved in local issues. Commissioner Comeau said that no disbursements will be made until the issue is resolved. He said that this money is taxpayers’ dollars and it is role of the Board to ensure the money is disbursed correctly.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**List of documents for the May 6, 2021 Regular Monthly Board Meeting:**

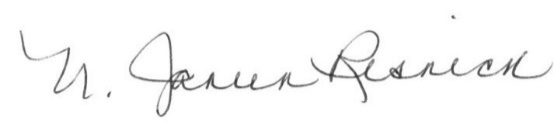
1. Agenda for the May 6, 2021, Regular Monthly Board Meeting
2. Draft Minutes from the April 1, 2021 Regular Monthly Board Meeting
3. Agenda 7, Consideration of Joining Networks Grant Award Recommendation
4. Agenda 8, Consideration of approval of a Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program (MPLCP) Provisional Grant Award for the Jones Library, Amherst
5. Agenda 9, Consideration of approval for a MPLCP Small Library Pilot Project
6. Agenda Item 10, Report from MLS
7. Agenda Item 11, Report from LFC

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Cluggish asked for a roll call vote of the Commissioners for this motion.

Commissioner Comeau moved and Commissioner Biancolo seconded to adjourn the May 6, 2021 MBLC Monthly Board Meeting under the consent agenda.

**Hearing no objection, Chair Cluggish declared the motion passed under the consent agenda.**



N. Janeen Resnick

Secretary