

Minutes of the Wead Library Board Meeting March 17, 2025

Present: Melissa Benardot, President
Chris Eggsware, Vice President
Anne Werley Smallman, Secretary
Lucille Poirier, board member
Mary McDonald, Principal Library Clerk
Chelsie Russo, Librarian II
Excused: Jeanne LeClerc, Treasurer

Call to order: 7:04 pm by Melissa Benardot, President

Motion by Anne Werley Smallman/second by Lucille Poirer to excuse Jeanne LeClerc from attendance at the meeting for an out-of-town commitment.

Motion to approve minutes from February 24, 2025 meeting by Chris Eggsware/second by Lucille Poirier. Unanimously approved.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's reports for January 2025 and February 2025 by Chris Eggsware/second by Lucille Poirier. Unanimously approved.

Motion to accept the bills as paid dated February 28, 2025 by Chris Eggsware/second by Lucille Poirier. Unanimously approved.

Communications:

- Mary McDonald sent thank yous to Book Sale volunteers

Library report by Mary McDonald *see attached*

Librarian report by Chelsie Russo *see attached*

Old Business:

Roof/Window Project

- Mary McDonald has had several phone conversations with John MacArthur since the last meeting. The items additional to the original plans: snow brake over main entrance will not be a big issue, but the ice over park street entrance will be more involved to address but shouldn't affect the cost too much. It will set us back in our timeline by a month as they needed to investigate the cause of the ice buildup. It was sent to the state last Friday. Mary provided maps to illustrate the area that will be insulated to mitigate the ice buildup. John MacArthur got a quote for a third, cheaper, composite material with an anticipated life of 50

years (vs. slate) and Mary provided sample photographs of other buildings with roofs using that material. They will also add a ridge vent over the mezzanine area.

Total cost estimate for the project is: \$677,900.00. \$71,601.25 has been paid to Beardsley. \$8,768.50 has been paid to Atlantic Testing for asbestos survey and report. \$600,000 was allocated (encumbered) in the budget, plus \$100,000.00 in the capital improvement fund.

Budget Vote/Annual Meeting

- Legal ad must run three times; will be advertised in Telegram 3/20, 3/25, 4/11.
Absentee ballots will be mailed out first week of April. Those on the list from Board of Elections automatically are mailed an absentee ballot; others may pick up an application from the library.
- Although we don't have final numbers for the new budget, using current numbers we will will exceed the legal tax cap. Motion by Lucille Poirier/second by Chris Eggsware:
Resolved, that the Board of Trustees of the Wead Library voted and approved to exceed the tax levy limit for 2025-2026 by at least the 60% of the Board of Trustees as required by state law on March 17, 2025.
Motion unanimously approved.
- Budget issues:
 - Health insurance increased 12%
 - Mary is awaiting salary numbers from the Board; when the Board completes its new contract negotiation with full-time staff we will be able to provide those numbers to Mary for the budget-creating process.

Motion to approve the 2024 annual report as submitted to NYS by Chris Eggsware/second by Lucille Poirier. Mary Unanimously approved.

Entered Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel on motion by Lucille Poirier, second by Chris Eggsare at 7:59pm. Unanimously approved.

The board exited Executive Session at 9:30 pm on motion by Anne Werley Smallman/second by Lucille Poirier.

Motion by Lucille Poirier to adjourn, second by Chris Eggsware. Meeting adjourned at 9:31pm

The Board will meet on March 31 at 3:30pm to review the proposed budget and for an anticipated Executive Session. The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be April 28, 2025 at 7pm. It is also the Budget Informational Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Werley Smallman
Board of Trustees