

**Friends of WMRLS Board Meeting
August 22, 2008**

Minutes

Present: Dick Floyd, Lisa Wenner, Sue Crowther, Lynn Coakley, Louise Kanus, Mary King, Sara Woodbury (president)

Absent: Tony Golinski, John Ramsay, Lisa Downing

Sara called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. The minutes of the April and June meetings were approved, with one correction in the latter. (The \$53 mentioned on page 1, last sentence, should not have referred to the legislative breakfasts, but rather to the balance remaining from the hiring of the bus for Legislative Day.)

Administrator's Report. In John's absence, Mary King delivered the following report: The "Books Go Green" proposal, an attempt to obtain some federal funding for the bookmobile under an environmental umbrella, was a no-go. John has worked with Senator Olver on this, but it does not seem viable under existing grant programs. Lisa W. suggested we continue to press Olver on this nevertheless to see if we can find some program that would make it fundable.

WMRLS has purchased Gloucester's bookmobile for \$9000+, the "lighthouse truck." The mileage is not high, it uses the more economical diesel fuel, and is now being refurbished. Could it run on vegetable oil? The drivers need some training for this truck. The delivery trucks are now too small for the volume of delivery; sorting needs to be done on the trucks, but there is very little room. So the bookmobile may be used for delivery. Many issues have to be worked out.

Delivery: Possibility of having one truck for a Saturday route to larger libraries with large deliveries. It would be a trial thing, however. The bookmobile schedule will be changing, but this may put more stress on delivery.

Mary thanked the Friends of WMRLS for its donations to the bookmobile this year.

On Sept. 13 the MBLC will run a workshop for Friends groups at Devens, MA.

President's Report. Sara reminded the Board that the annual meeting of the Friends of WMRLS will be held on October 3rd at the Wendell Free Library from 10:00 to Noon. Becky Marconi, coordinator for the "Together We Thrive" grant project, will be the speaker; she will bring us up to date on the progress of this project for small libraries. There will also be a tour of the Wendell library, which has recently been expanded and renovated, and has many "green" features to show.

Sara had recently sent in a proposal to WGBY's TV program "Making it Here" to interest the producers in doing a program on Friends of WMRLS and its work. An answer came back saying that they had recently done a program on books and therefore were not interested at the present time.

A discussion followed about how to get the public's attention on libraries' needs and our efforts to help them. Sue suggested focusing a Webcam on the bookmobile drivers. Dick commented that we need some kind of program that explains how many people libraries reach – how so many staff and volunteers work hard and long in the nonprofit sector, whether publicly funded or privately, to make something happen. We need to “develop bridges between what decision and policy makers see as important and the cultural and human development benefits derived from the services WMRLS and local libraries provide.” The private-public relationship is another element to be considered, i.e., local funding with a financial match as a component in the system.

Sara noted that we needed a nominating committee to present a slate of officers at the annual meeting. In Tony's absence, we happily agreed that Sara should appoint Tony as chair of the nominating committee. Members should make suggestions to Tony for nominees.

Treasurer's Report. Dick's report that the Board's treasury has a positive balance of \$12,914.02 was approved. Sue asked if any interest is accrued on our account and the answer was no, because it is a single account that is free. There was discussion of possibly putting some of the money into a CD money market account.

Membership Committee. In a Berkshire initiative, the Board paid to sponsor a Saturday program on WAMC, the public radio station out of Albany, NY which reaches much of Western Massachusetts. On August 9 and 16 the sponsorship of a radio program gave us the opportunity to make a brief statement about Friends of WMRLS, what it does, and also made mention of the bookmobile service. Lisa D. led this effort.

Newsletter. Sue distributed copies of the newsletter she edited, which will be mailed immediately. All state legislators will get copies as well as the Friends membership. The printing costs came to \$75, and the postage \$85. Board members will fold, address, seal and stamp the newsletters following the meeting. Thank you, Sue.

Fundraising Committee. Louise reported another Berkshire initiative in August – the effort to renew interest in that county in the Honor Someone Special bookmobile project. She and Mary King sent letters to directors via delivery truck, with additional donation forms, to explain how we were hoping to reach the summer residents/visitors this time. A 4" x 4" display ad was also put in the Berkshire Eagle and ran on August 8 at a cost of \$224.96. The total amount collected for bookmobile materials since the project began now exceeds \$5000.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise A. Kanus