

Minutes of the Library Trustees Meeting  
Bushnell-Sage Library  
April 13, 2023

Present: Pat Levine, Martin Mitsoff, Joan Powers, Deena Caswell and Sig Spiegel

Pat called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. Minutes from prior meeting on March 9, 2023 were approved as written on a motion by Pat, seconded by Joan, with unanimous approval.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT HIGHLIGHTS (see full report attached below): Deena provided a summary of Crossroads activities and her extensive outreach to community partners and media. The programs being held by our community partners, including the Ashley Falls offering, have been well-attended.

The Library's quilting program, taking place around the book stacks rather than in the program room being used for Crossroads, was a big success, with numerous patrons inquiring of staff and speaking with the quilters. In other continuing programming, the Souther Berkshire Kids group meets on Tuesdays and Read to a Dog is taking place on Fridays.

Deena then discussed her professional development activities, including with the National Libraries of Medicine, and noted that she is seeing that young adults are expressing interest in health care and geriatric support programs. Virtual medical "Medline" training programs may be offered soon. All staff have completed the state ethics training program. Deena will also be offering crisis communications skills training to staff.

The need for a town facilities manager, caring for all town-owned buildings, was discussed. For now, Melissa is keeping a list of items and her related communications with town hall. Ron is doing very good work with regard to cleaning, with Deena noting his high standards for cleanliness. The status of the front door replacement and a standby generator are still not known.

Trustee items: Pat asked about Deena's evaluation, and requested the revised form used last year be sent to each trustee. Martin discussed advocacy for the Library, its programs and staff through periodic attendance at select board meetings, not necessarily via being on the agenda but also using the public comments period of these meetings. Martin is to draft a letter of thanks to Joan for her trustee work.

Friends Items: Sig has been following up with with Susan Butler, Chris and Kevin regarding scheduling the land preparations and moving and will keep everyone apprised.

The next Trustees meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 18th at 8:30 AM. Martin motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 AM, seconded by Pat, with unanimous agreement.

Respectfully submitted,

Martin Mitsoff

**Bushnell-Sage Library**  
Director's Report for April 13, 2023

We're in week 3 of the Crossroads: Change in Rural America exhibit at the library. Events and exhibits are rolling out across town.

Many thanks to our incredible Crossroads installation team! They worked tirelessly over multiple days to unload crates and assemble the intricate exhibit, including all of the tech components.

We had a fantastic turnout for our opening reception on Sunday, March 26 with approximately 150 attendees. Shaw Izikson from the Berkshire Edge was in attendance and wrote a great piece. On Friday, March 31, Mass Humanities hosted a reception here for legislators and members of the Rural Library Network. While Smitty Pignatelli was unable to attend due to a health issue, it was a great opportunity to meet State Senator (previously Representative) Paul Mark as he represents Western Massachusetts.

Our first program, Nancy Smith's "Growls, Hoots, and Silence" on Friday, March 31, attracted an audience of 65 people to Dewey Hall to see her wildlife photography and hear her stories. We also had 45 people come out to the Trinity UMC in Ashley Falls to hear the community's "History Through Stories." While there was a small technical issue, a Zoom recording of the program has been posted to our library YouTube and linked on our Crossroads webpage. The webpage also has two pdfs of Ashley Falls photos that were shown during the program.

This week is the opening of the "Rural Berkshires: Always Adapting" art show at Dewey Hall, with a reception on Friday, April 14 at 6 p.m. This weekend also features "Oral History Collection Day: Recollections of Sheffield's Black Community in the 20th C." on Saturday, April 15 at the Dan Raymond House and "Pox, Pus, and Creeping Miasma: Disease & Death in 18th & 19th C. New England" on Sunday, April 16 at Dewey Hall, in addition to our weekend exhibits at Old Stone Store and Dan Raymond House.

In library news, our series of "Ageless Yoga" events with Senta Reis has wrapped. We'll look to reschedule her in the fall – in the summer she offers outdoor yoga at Lake Mansfield. "Friday Reset" meditation has moved to Christ Trinity for the duration of Crossroads, but will return to the library in May. We're thankful to our other small groups who have been very flexible about using other library spaces to gather while the program room is occupied.

We welcomed New England author Bruce Coffin for a visit on March 11 after a patron suggested inviting him to discuss his work. We had five people in attendance but great conversation about growing up in the region.

The Berkshire Quilters Guild did a library "takeover" for National Quilting Day on March 18. Members of the guild worked on quilts or other projects on the library's main level and second floor, inviting people to ask questions or observe. We'll look for ways to continue to partner with them.

Berkshire Harm Reduction had hosted a monthly mobile unit visit at the library including sharps collection. In reassessing where they can make the most impact, they have decided to discontinue the monthly van visit as there are now sufficient collection spots in place. We are talking with them about ways to continue to partner, likely through the use of our small meeting spaces once Crossroads clears out.

Our children's programs are going well, with South Berkshire Kids, the South Berkshire Child Care Program storytimes, Lego Construction Zone, and Read to a Dog consistently on our monthly calendars entertaining and educating our youngest visitors. On March 22, Stef ran another program in her popular Children's Art series on "Painted Bead Necklaces" that had 12 attendees. Stef has planned a week of Family Crafternoon drop-ins to run during April break week.

In professional development, I attended a networking meeting at Stockbridge Library on March 13 organized by Margot Malachowski from the Network of National Libraries of Medicine (NNLM). Staff from libraries across South County gathered to hear Margot's report back of the interviews and research she conducted to see how we could best work with NNLM. One interesting trend she noted was that in addition to the senior community that we all recognized as having information needs that could be helped by NNLM resources, that we also have a significant population of students and potential health care workers who would benefit from more training on how to serve senior populations. Margot also provided a virtual Medline Plus training so that library staff can better use this reputable resource. The link to the virtual training has been shared with all staff.

Staff has also completed our mandatory state ethics trainings. On March 16, I participated in an online training hosted by Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners on Crisis Communication Skills.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deena Caswell

## March digital circulation:

Format	Checkouts
OverDrive Magazine	310
OverDrive Listen	230
Kindle Book	104
OverDrive Read	92
Adobe EPUB eBook	12
OverDrive MP3 Audiobook	7
Ext: Cost Per Circ	3
Pending (Audiobook)	3
Adobe PDF eBook	1
Pending (eBook)	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>763 (up from 504 in February)</b>

## March circulation statistics:

### Monthly Circulations (Table) ⓘ

ARIS

Adult Audio (Compact discs (not CD-ROMs), cassettes)

2023 mar

2022 apr

40

74

Adult Books

1,043

1,326

Adult Materials in electronic format

3

14

Adult Miscellaneous (e.g. ebook readers, kits, framed art prints, puppets, slide sets, films, filmstrips)

28

35

Adult Video cassettes/discs/DVD

676

680

Adult Volumes of Print Periodicals, Newspapers and Other Print Serials

115

94

Childrens Audio (Compact discs (not CD-ROMs), cassettes)

6

21

Childrens Books

1,091

1,290

Childrens Materials in electronic format

-

4

Childrens Miscellaneous (e.g. ebook readers, kits, framed art prints, puppets, slide sets, films, filmstrips)

6

5

Childrens Video cassettes/discs/DVD

59

97

Childrens Volumes of Print Periodicals, Newspapers and Other Print Serials

2

14

Young Adult Audio (Compact discs (not CD-ROMs), cassettes)

2

14

Young Adult Books

60

78

Young Adult Materials in electronic format

3

3

Young Adults Miscellaneous (e.g. ebook readers, kits, framed art prints, puppets, slide sets, films, filmstrips)

4

18

27TOTAL

3,138

3,713