

MAINE INFONET BOARD MEETING

June 3, 2019 Minutes

IN ATTENDANCE: Joyce Rumei, Marjoire Hassen, Ben Treat, David Nutty, James Jackson Sanborn, Pauline Angione, James Ritter, Sarah Campbell, Nancy Grant, Steve Norman, Michelle Dustin, Diane Nadeau. Also in attendance 2 members of the Fundraising & Development Committee, Sherrie Berman and Gene Wiemers.

Meeting was called to order at 1:33 PM.

First item on agenda was to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2019 meeting with amendment to the May 6, 2019 Board meeting. The correction was noted. Motion to accept from James Ritter and seconded by Nancy Grant. Unanimous approval.

Next on the agenda was the report from the members of the Fundraising & Development Committee, Sherrie and Gene. They noted their committee had spent time exploring an endowment Fund to assist the Infonet Department to support and fund additional staff to bring in additional libraries into the MILS or Minerva systems. This could include part-time or contracted staff. They both agreed that anything this committee can do to support and move the Maine InfoNet System forward would be explored. James Ritter noted/suggested we look at the total cost of the system and fees for its members when exploring fundraising efforts. Sarah noted the successful efforts in Portland. She suggested, "We take something that is currently working and make it "cutting edge." "Cutting edge" may be the way to move forward with rural and small libraries and highlight the benefits it would bring to the entire system and state of Maine.

Joyce wishes and is interested in exploring the "endowment" side of this issue and get that PR piece of this "connectivity" information to small communities, schools and businesses. All agreed "Leading Edge" is what is needed to promote the system's benefits and affordability.

The question was asked if there needed to be a "branding" campaign. Gene Wiemers then asked, "How can you make this attractive to small communities? Do small libraries do this themselves? Do they take this information to their town manager and town officials? It was noted that a possible way to move this forward is with matching funds for these potential new members.

Sarah asked James how to identify the libraries not in the system and how to get the information out to them. James Jackson Sanborn has a list of thirty-seven possible libraries. These libraries may be interested in joining the MILS or BALSAM systems he noted. He further noted that we currently have 58% (679,000) of Maine's population being served as part of the Maine InfoNet System. James noted that 200,000 more people could be served and benefit from membership with an additional 70,000 more people to be served by Evergreen and KOHA systems.

James Jackson noted the time line to move a library into MILS or Minerva takes 80 hours of Maine Infonet staff time. Joyce added "80 hours to connect to the world."

James Sanborn Jackson was asked how long it would take to bring thirty more libraries into the system.

He informed the board that it would take approximately 3 years to do the work with the current funding. He noted a “comfortable year” brings in seven new libraries into the system.

Is there a vendor that can bring in thirty libraries in a timely fashion? Are there options beyond MILS or a combination of systems for smaller libraries? These are questions members of the Board asked.

Joyce noted that the “public relations” piece of this issue is very important and timely and the Maine Infonet Board plays a role in this conversation.

Next on the agenda was information from the Finance Committee. James & Ben noted the document will include a page for grant and fundraising purposes. Pauline also noted she has been working on the Infonet Board’s insurance needs. This includes the need for a Corporate Liability Policy (required by state) at the cost of \$500 per year. “D& N” policy to cover James and the directors if decisions are made that lead to lawsuits. This cost is \$700 per year. A part of the policy covers theft at a \$500 per year. There is coverage for “cyber theft” that protect the systems and data at \$180 per year. Pauline noted it would cost \$2,500 to fully insure the Maine InfoNet Board per year.

James Ritter gave an update on LD 1149 and informed the Board this bill was approved by committee and now headed to the Legislative Appropriation Committee. Jamie encouraged all Board members to reach out the respective legislators to encourage them to support this very important bill. He also gave information about smaller grants. A \$10,000. Grant from the Davis Family Foundation for the Download Library for audio books. A Stephen & Tabitha King Foundation grant for the Maine Students Book Awards books and other school related literature. A \$50,000. to purchase 1,000 audio versions of the books. He noted audio books are “trending.” .

Next on the agenda was a report from the Strategic Plan work group progress. David and Joyce will look and review the materials. They will prioritize the data and bring this information back to the full Board in July.

Next on the agenda was a Director’s Report. James reported that Thomaston Library “went live” in the MILS system. He noted the annual MILS members meeting was held at the Topsham Library on Friday, May 24, 2019. There was a good representation of MILS participants and an informative and productive meeting. He noted the Minerva Executive Board has a new member from Gray Public Library. James also reported a higher number of audio books downloads last month compared to lower E-books downloads last month.

Next on the agenda was a report from Marjorie Hassen who met with “III” at Bowdoin College. She reported the presentation was more of “sales pitch” and “off-putting” rather than an informative and productive session. Marjorie reported that “III” did answer questions at the end of their meeting.

Joyce reported the GPO office may out-source its printing of documents and this would affect the Repository Libraries.

There was a discussion on the focus of the July 1, 2019 Maine Infonet Board meeting should be. It was noted the time of this meeting is 12 noon.

There was no further business to take care of therefore the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane I. Nadeau

Maine InfoNet Board Member

MILS Representative