

Maine InfoNet Board Meeting

Minutes, March 4, 2019

DRAFT

Attending (all via videoconference): Joyce Rumery, Ben Treat, Pauline Angione, James Jackson Sanborn, Nancy Grant, Diane Nadeau, Steve Norman, James Ritter, Marjorie Hassen, Janet Sorter

I. Minutes: approved unanimously the minutes of February 4, to be amended to identify Jamie Ritter as the note-taker

II. Legislative Initiatives:

- MSL put in two bills: one to clarify the format of the Maine Library Commission, the other to fund resource sharing. Neither bill has been printed yet.
- Two censorship-oriented bills (obscene materials, teachers taking positions) came before legislature. MSL was involved in working with MASL to craft language. The obscenity bill was struck down in committee; the bill related to teachers and potentially librarians taking positions on matters of policy has not been voted out but is likely to die in committee.
- Speaker Gideon put forth legislation to use funds from the Universal Services Fund to provide library services to the blind. The MSL may be asked to pay part of this cost through the MTEAF, which may mean submitting a bigger budget to the PUC.
- Federal: Jamie Ritter met with Rep. Golden, Sen. Collins, and the staff of Sen. King and Rep. Pingree. Sen. Collins has been a strong advocate for the “Dear Appropriator” letter for LSTA funding, for which she is the lead Republican signer. December 2018 IMLS reauthorization has created a new formula which should increase Maine’s LSTA funds by \$300,000 if the funding is available. Rep. Golden also promises support.
- Maine Libraries Day, April 24, Hall of Flags, creating tables and booths and possibly 10’x10’ examples/exhibits of what our libraries represent.
- A request has gone to Governor Mills to declare the month of April “Maine Libraries Month.”

III. Updates on a III Meeting for CBB and MIN

Awaiting responses from Ann Jones. Most contact has been with Hilary or with Bill Easton or Tom Jacobson or Mark Iskander. A recent letter indicates their account management team is doubling in size.

IV. Director’s Report

James Jackson Sanborn highlighted:

- an upcoming MILS user group meeting
- Deborah Follansbee’s new role as a Minerva-funded part-time cataloger
- work with Balsam and III to make a Balsam-InnReach connection. Mark Iskander and the III general counsel met with James; general counsel is willing to write a letter

acknowledging that Ill is fine with the API connection being shared with the Evergeen community.

- Contract with Steve Wills as contract programmer, likely to be a couple of thousand dollars worth of work, will need approval.

V. Review of progress on Strategic Plan

- Governance Committee:
 - How shall we word the part of the by-laws that explains terms, renewal, etc. of Officers?
 - Conflict between MIN Board and MIN Collective by-laws; chose the one that allows Officers to be someone other than a Director.
 - Board to review by-laws as a single document prior to April 1 meeting. Vote on by-laws will be an agenda item on April 1.

VI. Items we would have discussed at greater length had snow not intervened

- We are very fortunate to have the gift of the talent and time of Sherrie Bergman, Gene Wiemers, and Steve Podgajny. They will be looking for the direction that the board would most like them to head in when pursuing fundraising dollars.
- Third-quarter financials to be reviewed at May 6 meeting, since April meeting is on April

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Respectfully submitted,
Ben Treat