Maine Infonet Board Meeting Minutes  
Monday, February 6 at 1:30 p.m. by Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Steve Norman.

Attending were James Jackson Sanborn, Nancy Grant, Bryce Cundick, Daisy Singh, Diane Nadeau, Janet Sortor, Steve Norman, and new Maine State Librarian Lori Fisher. Marjorie Hassen and Ben Treat could not attend.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the December 5 meeting. Motion carried.

Welcomes and introductions were made then reprised when Lori Fisher (the new Maine State Librarian) was able to join the meeting. Welcome, Lori!

The Finance Committee has been officially reconstituted. Members are James, Daisy, Lori, Ben, and Bryce. James reported that Infonet’s 990 Form is in the pipeline and will be reviewed by the Board at the next meeting.

James gave an update on the MaineCat improvement grant. We should be in good shape with the expenditures deadline (March 31). The reporting deadline is July 29. The MILS migration is essentially complete. A couple of significant issues are outstanding but have tickets to be fixed (one problem was reported solved during the meeting).

The contracted migration services have started after a kick-off meeting with III. Cohorts grouped by current system type will be migrated one cohort each month, starting with Library World libraries.

The D2IR (Direct to InnReach) projects continue. The final design is pending for the Koha D2IR libraries. Blue Hill Public Library’s Koha set-up is working, so we can reasonably hope that it works for the six or seven other Koha libraries. Also, Evergreen D2IR work continues, and Apollo/Biblionix D2IR work is in the final stages.

The committee on privacy/collection development/intellectual freedom policies has not met again, but will.

Vince Garin started on December 19 as the new Systems Support Librarian. Welcome, Vince! He will handle general tickets to start with and will eventually focus on supporting incoming and recently migrated libraries. He is out on paternity leave now (congratulations!).

Infonet’s new policies (passed at the December meeting) are posted on the Infonet website. Minerva and MILS have been informed of the approved optional 3-month new item embargo. Infonet staff are updating library templates so the embargo will work with the Sierra software. The changed loan periods have been implemented in Minerva and MILS. Infonet staff are
figuring out how best to implement the non-contributing to the MaineCat catalog of e-resources that cannot be used except by the subscribing library (this mostly applies to academic libraries).

The new version of InnReach (for MaineCat) should be rolling out in the first quarter of this year.

URSUS libraries continue the process to choose a next ILS. The academic URSUS libraries are working through finances. The public URSUS libraries are waiting on the State budget.

Minerva has formed a committee to plan for its next ILS. The committee’s general sense is that Sierra seems satisfactory for now, so there is no great urgency to change. Minerva will probably extend the current contract with III for another year (until June 2025) while researching different options. An application period for new Minerva members has opened. Eastern Maine Medical Center’s library has submitted paperwork to leave Minerva (leaving was basically a financial necessity).

There was discussion of the opportunity to co-sponsor an MLA Conference preconference session on Sunday, May 21. The topic of the preconference will be Maine’s Library Ecosystem. Representatives from various library stakeholder groups in the state will be invited to attend. The “Ecosystem Initiative” grew out of ALA efforts for advocacy. Jen Alvino Wood was part of the ALA committee that developed a toolkit for library ecosystem advocacy, and Lori Fisher also has been involved in the ecosystem efforts. Similar meetings on library ecosystems have happened in other states. The consensus of the Board was to expend up to $750 to support the preconference, although there was hesitation about subsidizing free food.

In other business, the matters of officers and committee structures need to be added to the next agenda.

The next meeting was scheduled for April 3 (skipping the previously scheduled March 6 meeting) at 1:30 p.m. in person at the Maine State Library. A summer or late spring retreat for the Infonet Board was noted as a goal.

The meeting adjourned at about 3:30 p.m.