

Maine InfoNet Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 3 at 1:30 p.m. at the Maine State Library

The meeting was called to order at about 1:30. Present at the Maine State Library were James Jackson Sanborn, Daisy Singh, Ben Treat, Bryce Cundick, and Steve Norman. Attending by Zoom were Lori Fisher, Janet Sortor, Marjorie Hassen, and Nancy Grant.

Bryce moved and Lori seconded that the minutes from the February meeting be approved. Motion carried.

The Finance Committee met (Ben could not be there) and reviewed the reports and statements. InfoNet is solidly in the black. A large amount is in accounts receivable, mostly for charges for the Download Library. Reminder invoices to libraries are in the pipeline. James attributed much of this problem to turnover at libraries. Turnover results in bad email addresses for invoices. Turnover also results in libraries not being aware that they are subscribers to the Download Library.

The board reviewed the annual Form 990. James noted a few policies that would be desirable for InfoNet to have for reporting on Form 990: Whistleblower, Conflict of Interest, and another.

Bryce moved and Lori seconded that the Form 990 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

James reported on the MaineCat improvement grant. He meets with Lori tomorrow to determine the best way to handle the remaining expenditures from the grant.

The MILS migration to Polaris is finished. The first six of the libraries with contracted migration are in the process of being moved—training will happen in April, with a go-live date at the end of April or in May. The remaining libraries with contracted migration have had preliminary work started, with an anticipated go-live date in June.

Progress continues on the D2IR connections to MaineCat for Koha and Apollo/Biblionix libraries. Five libraries (Casco, Naples, Bridgton, Raymond Village, and Harrison Village) will merge from standalone Koha systems into a shared Koha system, which will connect through D2IR to MaineCat. This Koha consortium (not yet named) has room for future growth. Its governance will be modeled roughly on Minerva. InfoNet will pay the one-time migration fee, then the libraries will pay ongoing annual costs. Bywater will provide support and maintenance.

MaineCat's Beta partnership with Triple-I for the new architecture of InnReach software is postponed until spring and does not have an official start date. MaineCat's use of InnReach software is sufficiently complicated that Triple-I wants to work with us later in the process.

The RFP award for the URSUS academic libraries has been made to Clarivate/Ex Libris. A contract is signed for the academic libraries to move to the Ex Libris Alma system. Migration work will begin on November 23, with go-live between spring semester and June 30, 2024. The final decision for the URSUS public libraries awaits State budget developments and the arrival of

the new director for the Portland Public Library. Lori explained that, in order to avoid a government shutdown during the summer, the first session of the Legislature approved a baseline budget before adjourning. The second session will consider the request for funding for URSUS and an increase in funding for digital content. Lori will monitor progress on the new initiatives in the second session, which will conclude by June 30. Sarah Moore begins as the new director at PPL on April 19.

Minerva has received three applications for membership. Two of those libraries appear ready for an early fall migration. Two other libraries (Eastern Maine Medical Center and York Schools) have submitted paperwork to leave Minerva.

Marjorie volunteered to put together a slate of officers for the coming year and to compile a list of board members with the dates of their terms. Committees were briefly discussed. Committees mentioned were Finance, Membership, and Fundraising. The Intellectual Freedom/Privacy Committee is ad hoc. Potential InfoNet board members were listed: Sarah Moore at PPL, Kevin Smith from Colby College, a continuing representative from the Department of Education or for community colleges, and representatives from MILS and Koha libraries and MASL. InfoNet's bylaws were approved in 2019, and the official board began then. We are technically a year behind in our cycle, but we should be given a year of grace due to COVID! The need for the bylaws to be posted on the website was noted.

Ben reached out to MASL and MLA IF people to invite them to participate in creating InfoNet collection development and privacy policies. Including the schools is especially important now given the context of current events. For schools, the committee will probably need to hold meetings after 3:30. Lori offered assistance and will send the policy from New Hampshire as a potential template for us. Lori also informed us of the various IF-related bills in the legislature.

Lori gave an update on the plans for the preconference on library and cultural ecosystems at the MLA conference in May. Invitations will be going out soon.

There was animated discussion of the unsustainable costs of e-book licensing. Lori will contact ALA's Public Policy and Advocacy Office for a potential contact for Steve to pursue.

Marjorie stated that Colby-Bates-Bowdoin has already begun the MaineCat lending freeze because Ex Libris bumped forward the anticipated pre-migration freeze.

The next meeting will be June 5. In person or remote will be determined later. It was agreed that orienting the soon-to-arrive new board members was advisable before trying to arrange any potential planning retreat.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30.