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# Maine Library Commission Minutes, November 4, 2014

Maine Library Commission

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# Maine State Library Commission

\*\*MINUTES – November 4, 2014\*\*

Meeting called to order at 1:00PM.

## **Attendance:**

Commission Members Present: Beth Edmonds (Chair), Joyce Rumery (Vice Chair), Debe Averill, Jeff Cabral, Charlie Campo, Cora Damon, Helen Fogler, Barbara McDade, Art Turley, Mike Hayes (video)

Also present: Linda Lord, James Ritter, Janet McKenney, James Jackson Sanborn

- Minutes from the September 22, 2014 meeting were amended and approved.

## **Review of the Strategic Plan Report and Written Reports:**

Strategic Plan updates and written reports from Library Development and Reader and Information Services were submitted prior to the meeting. Additional highlights included:

- MSL assisting with legislation to address patron privacy concerns and also sales tax exemption for Maine InfoNet
- Had budget meeting with DAFS – discussed MSL overall budget and the request to fund four new initiatives:
  - Shared Position (MSL, Museum, and Archive)
  - LearningExpress
  - Permanent funding for Early Childhood Literacy position
  - Increase in materials budget
- Tax-Check Off (how to use funds) survey will seek input on eBooks, Hoopla, or Mango
- NY Public Library grant for MiFi devices (i.e. ‘check-out’ the internet) for Washington County schools approved -- \$50,000
- Advocacy: L.Lord, B.Edmonds, and Friends of MSL Board Member Jean Gulliver to appear on MPBN 207 and Maine Calling to discuss “Secrets of the Maine State Library” on December 22.

## **Maine InfoNet Update (James Jackson Sanborn):**

- The MILS system is still in process. Maine InfoNet has a dedicated project manager assigned from III to assist. Vose, Paris, and Wells Reserve libraries will be included in the Beta Test of the MILS system when it goes live
- New libraries entering into Minerva on track. They are: Wyndham (November), Freeport (December), and Maine College of Art (spring 2015 after term).
- (Also reported by L.Lord): As it relates to Maine InfoNet’s 501(c)3, the organization has recently learned that they do not qualify as Sales Tax exempt under Maine’s current statutes. Currently, unsure of the overall impact, and a suggestion was made to potentially pursue a legislative remedy --- legislative solution is being pursued.
- PPL and standalone systems are getting ready to migrate into Sierra which involves a migration into the server (Data Center in Orono)

- Working on direct connection into MaineCat for the Evergreen Systems
- November 21 – Maine InfoNet Directors Forum. Hosting Amy Rudersdorf from DPLA.

**Library Standards:** The official minutes will reflect that there was significant and considerable discussion relating to the Public Library Standards. The discussion consumed approximately 1.25 hours of the meeting, and represented significant input, comment, and contributions from every member of the Commission present, as well as staff.

These minutes represent the broad categories of discussion and represent both categories of support, as well as, concern as it relates to the standards document.

- 1) All members agree that the existing standards have been adopted at prior meetings and represent the valued input for numerous of numerous constituents. It's agreed that the standards can – and may – be modified to best meet the desired goals of the commission as it relates to library aspirations, as well as, relating to how best to use limited resources.
- 2) At this time, the standards must be represented an aspirational document that guides – even if by tiered levels – libraries to understanding what's possible with a “Capitol P” and what's also expected (with a lower-case “l”) in terms of how a public library should ideally operate.
- 3) There are specific standards that exist in the document as it is adopted now that are unrealistic and not attained by many of Maine's mid-sized, professionally run libraries. This is a concern and was a major point of conversation. Numerous members agreed that defining the “Core” standards tier as the minimum tier to receive the most basic and minimum services needs to be looked at.
- 4) There were a number of nuances in some of the language that must be addressed. Specifically the conversation that took place regarding staff at the library and the professional nature of staff. Some of the examples were “MLS/MLIS Degree” or “MSL Certification” appeared to be given equal weight in terms of professional status as it related to the standards, a library has staff that ranges from custodial to MLIS Director – this must be distinguished in standards.
- 5) Though should ultimately be given to how these [the standards] will be used, how they will monitored or verified, etc. Numerous members cautioned that this could then impact staff at MSL – especially if full audit/verification is required of all libraries.

**Other Business:**

- Request from Topsham Public Library to have Commission designate “Exemplary” status for reaching standards has been tabled and taken off agenda item in light of the standards discussion.
- B.Edmonds asked the Standards Committee to take the question under advisement and make subsequent recommendations – More follow-up to taken under advisement at December 15, 2014 meeting.

**Executive Session:**

- The Commission convened an Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

The Commission reconvened, and at that time, adjourned their formal public meeting.

Motion made to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 3:05 PM.

**Next meeting is December 15, 2014 at 1:00 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Acting Secretary

James Ritter  
MSL, Director of Reader and Information Services