

WMRLS Executive Board Meeting

October 7, 2013

The meeting of the WMRLS Executive Board was called to order at 1:27 p.m. by Will Adamczyk, Vice-President.

Present: WMRLS Executive Board Members: William Adamczyk (by phone), Charlotte Canelli (by phone), Jim Douglas (by phone), Betty Johnson, Deborah Kelsey (by phone), Margot Malachowski, Bert Saul (by phone), John Walsh (by phone), Sarah Watkins

Ex-officio: Greg Pronevitz, MLS Ex. Director; Dianne Carty, MBLC

Guests: Catherine Utt; Carolyn Noah; Sarah Sogigian; Steve Spohn

Minutes from June 17, 2013 meeting approved. Motion-Bert; Second-Deborah. Unanimous.

Whately Facility Update and Recommendation

MLS signed a listing agreement with our realtor in mid-September. Our realtor received an offer to purchase the property on September 27, 2013. Our realtor spoke with the Whately Town Administrator to ascertain their interest in a joint EMS service because of their recently stated interest. He reported that they will not be able to make a decision until June 2014 and we are not certain what their decision will be. No other avenues are currently open that would allow MLS to cost-effectively retain ownership and/or control of the property. We are currently seeking alternative quarters in Western Massachusetts to house seven staff members, host training and meeting needs, provide adequate parking, and provide a welcoming environment for the membership.

Greg recommends that we accept the offer to purchase with some conditions based on discussions with our realtor and attorney so that MLS can operate for the long-term in a cost-effective manner in Western Massachusetts. He also recommends that we call a monthly meeting of the WMRLS Executive Board until further notice to eliminate the need for separate announcements as we continue discussions about the Whately facility. WMRLS corporation is not in question; building sale only.

Motion to accept the resolutions as presented in the draft document "Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Board of Western Massachusetts Regional Library System, Inc."
Motion-Deborah; Second-Sarah. Unanimous.

Margot mentioned an article in the Greenfield Recorder stating that the 3 town EMS project was far from a done deal. Greg reported that the realtor will be looking for a space similar to Marlborough (3000-3500 sq ft.), with adequate parking, space for 7 staff, meeting room facility, and in the I91 corridor if it is necessary for MLS-Whately to move. A meeting will be set up with the Western Mass legislators to discuss the potential sale. The Attorney General will be notified. The government shut down delayed talks with the USDA.

Meeting adjourned at 1:46 p.m. Motion-Margot; Second-Sarah.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Johnson

Attachment: draft document "Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Board of Western Massachusetts Regional Library System, Inc."