

MEETING REPORT  
MARLBORO FREE LIBRARY BOARD  
November 6, 2023

Heather Blakely  
Stuart Auchincloss

We attended the regular meeting of the Marlboro Library Board on November 6. We arrived a bit before the meeting and Director Christina Jennerich gave us a tour of the Library building. The Library is planning a major modernization and expansion of the facilities, a project which they have broken into three parts for three separate construction grants (an excellent strategy).

We handed out the 2023 MHLS Infographic and spoke about the cooperative form of the MHLS. Especially, that each library's assessment is determined by formulas approved by the DA and not imposed arbitrarily by the MHLS board. We spoke about the importance of encouraging our State government to be more generous to libraries in the 2024 budget. They seem to be on top of this since they are expecting a member-item from their Assemblyman of about \$125,000 for site improvements (a separate phase of the renovation). And we brought them the news that the new catalog is now called Discovery.

We stayed for the meeting. In her Director's Report Christina spoke about the great features of the new catalog. She also spoke about the Trustee Training requirement, which the trustees seem to be taking care of. One of the trustees praised the Niche Academy both for variety and for convenience of use. As a result of her recent training she asked a few questions about whether they were complying sufficiently with the Open Meetings Law, especially with regard to advance public notice. As a result they will begin sending their meeting notice to the local paper as well as the library mailing list.

An issue came up about their annual audit. Christina was looking for a new auditor as a matter of good management to change auditing firms every few years. The firms that she has contacted so far have said that they do not audit libraries. [Observation from Heather and Stuart: If this is a general issue perhaps MHLS could publish a list of audit firms in the Hudson Valley that understand libraries, especially if we already have one as a result of our own searches.]

The president of the Board is a school librarian and she runs a tight meeting. Even with our presentation, all the business was completed in under an hour, with a full discussion of every item