MINUTES OF PEABODY INSTITUTE LIBRARY TRUSTEES
Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Present: Wilbur Cobb, Reni Conte, Julie Curtis, Kathleen Lopes, Douglas Rendell, Frank
Tyrrell, Mary Beth Verry

Absent: Donald Gates, Michael Hagan, Thomas Standring

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mary Beth Verry at 7:08 pm

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by T. Frank Tyrrell. There were no citizens present and no
citizen comments were made.

Secretary’s Minutes: A motion was made by T. Frank Tyrrell and seconded by Wilbur Cobb to
accept the secretary’s minutes from the February 11, 2009 Trustees meeting. Motion passed
unanimously.

Chairperson’s Report:

Chairperson Mary Beth Verry was informed by the Massachusetts Board of Library
Commissioners on February 23, 2009, that a second payment of $14,707.98 in state aid was on
it’s way. A third minimal payment is expected for fiscal year 2009.

Chairperson Verry attended the recent legislative breakfast at the Beverly Library and reported
that a lot of people attended. Verry also said the legislators showed a lot of support for the
libraries. April 2nd is Legislative Day at the State House and the Trustees need to make sure they
do everything possible to make sure library funding stays strong.

Wednesday, April 22, 2009 is the staff/volunteer luncheon, if any Trustee is interested in
attending, please rsvp by April 13th. The Staff/Trustee dinner will be held on Thursday, April 30,
2009 at the Endicott Park Carriage House starting at 6:00 pm.

Chairperson Verry brought us up to date with the FY2009 library budget. Presently there are no
definite answers or numbers. Town Manager Wayne Marquis has asked all town departments to
be level funded. A real concern is expenditures. In order to keep our accreditation, we must
spend 13% of the budget on purchase of library materials, with level funding this will not be
possible.

The library should be alright in 2010. Director Rendell will keep the Trustees apprised on
anything new. Rendell cannot predict what a 5 year plan will look like. The budget must be
realistic and honest. The biggest issue will be salaries. The goal is not to lay anyone off.
Library funding is on the agenda of the Board of Selectman’s meeting Wednesday, March 25th
and Trustees are encouraged to attend the meeting and show a united front. The April Trustees
meeting may have to be held earlier than scheduled to enable the Trustees to vote on the budget.

Treasurer’s Report: There was no report due to Treasurer Donald Gates’ absence.

Building and Grounds Report:

Director Rendell reported that the ceiling repairs necessitated by the recent water problems are
due to begin Friday, March 20th and should take three weeks to complete. Other problems due to
be repaired are the third floor ceiling is sinking and staining on the first floor.
The lights down at the Rotary Pavilion have gone out and no one can find what the problem is. Rendell is confident that the problem will be solved. Trustee Wilbur Cobb reported he had heard that a couple of copper plates are missing.

The stair project has been completed and looks good. Cleaning will be easy to take care of.

Hopefully there will be no more snow this season. Another major snow storm will impact the FY09 budget.

Security camera warrant article has been submitted for review.

**Lyceum Report:**

Kathleen Lopes reported that the children’s Valentines Party was a success with over 95 children and 60-70 parents in attendance. There were so many children that the first three crafts ran out. Mike Bendt from Abracadabra entertained. The parents liked it being held on a Saturday. Lopes would like to bring in one more entertainer in June to kick-off the Summer program. This year’s program’s theme is “Blast Off To Summer”.

The children’s librarian is working with the public schools librarian to make sure every child has a library card. This is a great partnership.

The Young Adult Program for middle school and high school ages is doing good. This is a partnership between the Peabody Institute Library and the public schools.

**Director's Report:**

Director Rendell handed out a listing of Massachusetts libraries who had not been certified as of February 12, 2009. Libraries not certified do not make state standards. As a result, libraries will not receive state aid, federal aid, a number of things the community loses, and no requirement for reciprocal borrowing.

The Town Telecommunications Policy was handed out and the Trustees were asked to review it.

Copies of obituaries for Mary Melanson and Judith Ann Bright were handed out. Melanson’s family asked that donations be made to the library and Bright was the author of the library newsletter.

Director Rendell informed us that he had issued a no trespassing order to a middle school student today.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by T. Frank Tyrrell and seconded by Wilbur Cobb to adjourn the February 2009 Library Trustees meeting at 8:15 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie E. Curtis
Recording Secretary