

March 15, 2025

In addition to the annual report prepared for the Town of Colrain, Chelsea shared a few points by email on March 14th:

Be sure to take note of our new phone number: 413-624-2377 :)

Please find some proposed designs for our sign attached for your consideration ("griswold mock 2"). The sooner we can get back to Taylor with a decision, the better!

Stephen from Larocque Architects would like to attend the May trustees' meeting. We should hold plenty of space to have a conversation with him at that time. I will invite the Cornerstone Committee to also take part. Stephen and the Larocque team will be visiting the library on 3/18. I have invited the Town Administrator, Ellen (representing the Friends and the Cornerstone Committee), and Dago and Cheli to join us for this meeting, which is intended as a site visit and not a planning meeting/update, which will take place in May.

Please take note of these upcoming events:

The Wild Robot movie matinee!

3:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 15th at GML

The Griswold Legacy, presented by Prentice Crosier

6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 19th at GML

College Behind Bars film screening and panel discussion at Greenfield Community College, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 29th

Budget presentation to Select Board and Finance Committee

7:15 at 9 Jacksonville Road, Colrain

Operational expenses, programs, staffing, and building maintenance. Feasibility study status & update

Q&A and recommendations

Author talk with NY Times bestselling author Kostya Kennedy:

The Ride: Paul Revere and the Night That Saved America

6:00 p.m. on Monday, April 7th at Greenfield Public Library

Celebrate Earth Day with GML!

With live music and a dance performance by the Seniority Dancers, plus, meet the Friends of the Library and local pollinators, make a painted newspaper flower, and get your reusable bags for roadside litter pickup!

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 19th

Besides these items, it may also be good to know:

* “Knit with Friends” has been finding its groove, usually just one or two people attending along with Jan. They will continue meeting on Wednesday evenings for the foreseeable future, with the exception of 3/19 when we host the Griswold Legacy local history lecture.
* Read to Lamby took place on March 8th. There were three participants who read to Lamby.


* The Bonding with Books workshops were both cancelled, due to low enrollment/participation. We’re back to the drawing board and trying to find better dates/times/communication and increased interest. There were only three participants who came to the movie matinee on Saturday.
* Resources regarding federal and state funding:
	+ Read the [ALA “Statement on White House Assault on the Institute of Museum and Library Services.”](https://www.ala.org/news/2025/03/ala-statement-white-house-assault-institute-museum-and-library-services) From the statement:

By eliminating the only federal agency dedicated to funding library services, the Trump administration’s executive order is cutting off at the knees the most beloved and trusted of American institutions and the staff and services they offer:

Early literacy development and grade-level reading programs

Summer reading programs for kids

High-speed internet access

Employment assistance for job seekers

Braille and talking books for people with visual impairments

Homework and research resources for students and faculty

Veterans’ telehealth spaces equipped with technology and staff support

STEM programs, simulation equipment and training for workforce development

Small business support for budding entrepreneurs

* **From Maureen Amyot, MBLC:**Dear Colleagues:

On Friday, March 14, President Trump signed an executive order that targets federal funding to libraries and museums through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). IMLS is the single largest source of critical federal funding for libraries. IMLS’ entire program of service costs 87 cents per person (US population July 2024).

From the executive order:

This order continues the reduction in the elements of the Federal bureaucracy that the President has determined are unnecessary.

The non-statutory components and functions of the following governmental entities shall be eliminated to the maximum extent consistent with applicable law, and such entities shall reduce the performance of their statutory functions and associated personnel to the minimum presence and function required by law.

Why this matters to you and to Massachusetts libraries:

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners receives $3.6 million from IMLS’ Grants to States Program. The MBLC uses these funds for statewide services for everyone, including:

MBLC staff: 13 of the MBLC’s 23 staff members are at least partially funded through IMLS (5 fully funded, 8 partially funded)

Statewide research databases

The Commonwealth Catalog (ComCat)

Summer Reading

The Statewide eBook Program (Library eBooks and AudioBooks-LEA) Funding for the eBook platform and some eBook content.

Statewide trainings for librarians to increase access for people with vision loss

Data collection and reporting

Federal funding also supports the E-Rate program

Key Points to remember:

IMLS’ Grants to States Program (which is how Massachusetts and every other state gets federal funding for libraries) is in statute, Chapter 72 of Title 20 of the U.S. Code, so we’ll be getting more information to clarify the impact of this executive order.

EveryLibrary has provided helpful statutory information: https://www.everylibraryinstitute.org/imls\_shall\_may\_language

The MBLC has been contingency planning for several months and if federal funds are eliminated or greatly reduced, it will act to preserve the core library services it provides.

Everyone can take action to stop the targeted attacks on libraries.

Empowered by Libraries (MBLC)

Show Up For Our Libraries (ALA)

State legislators: FIND MY LEGISLATOR

Federal legislators: https://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member

Questions about MBLC services:

Is the State Aid to Public Libraries Program affected by federal funding?

State Aid Grant Awards that public libraries receive through the State Aid to Public Libraries are fully funded by the annual state budget line 7000-9501. Not federal funding. However, all staff who work in the State Aid Unit are funded in part through federal funding. Data reporting through ARIS will continue.

What do I do if I have an LSTA grant from the MBLC?

If you received a federal grant (LSTA) from the MBLC in July 2024, your grant is secure and you should proceed with your intended service. For libraries that recently were awarded Explore Grants, the MBLC is proceeding with grant disbursement as planned. Should that change the MBLC will reach out to individual grant recipients.

Are the grants from Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program (MPLCP) affected by federal funding? The MPLCP is not federally funded. Governor Maura Healey and the State Legislature included $150 million for the MPLCP in the Economic Development Bill.

Are any of the MBLC services going to be immediately affected? Right now, statewide databases, ComCat, and the other services the MBLC provides (mentioned above) will continue. Should that change, the MBLC will notify the library community immediately.

The executive order raises many questions about which programs are statutory, and which are discretionary. In the days ahead, the MBLC will work with our state and federal partners to determine a course of action and provide you with more information as it becomes available. Please reach out with questions anytime.

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The GML is scheduled to receive [$6,710 in State Aid in 2025](https://mblc.state.ma.us/programs-and-support/state-aid-and-aris/files/awards/award_list_final.pdf)

* Every Library “Save IMLS” petition and email template:

<https://action.everylibrary.org/saveimls2025>