

GREAT BARRINGTON LIBRARIES
231 Main St.
Great Barrington, Ma. 01230

Great Barrington Libraries' Board of Trustees
Special Meeting
December 8, 2011
5:30 P.M.
Mason Library

PRESENT: KARIN BEEBE
TOM BLAUVELT
RONNIE CUNNINGHAM
HOLLY HAMER
HILDA BANKS SHAPIRO
JIM STARK

Kate Deviny
Jessica Magelaner

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Karin Beebe at 5:30 P.M.

A. Attendance – All present

B. Approval of minutes – November meeting

MOTION: Tom Blauvelt to accept the minutes as amended

SECOND: Ronnie Cunningham

VOTE: 4-0-2 (Karin Beebe and Hilda Banks Shapiro abstained)

2. Report of Officers, Boards and Standing Committees

A. President's Report – Karin Beebe

Karin Beebe welcomed the new director, Kate Deviny and thanked Jessica Magelaner for her hard work. She presented each with a Christmas cactus.

Karin Beebe read a statement outlining her goals for her tenure.

B. Director's Report – Kate Deviny said that she has spent a lot of time looking at the financials. She said that the library hasn't spent half of its budget yet and, therefore, is looking good. Kate said that she will submit a new budget to the town. She would like to increase the Dues Line and increase the non-print material budget by \$3000. Kate stated that the library was awarded \$4152.16, to be received in a few weeks, as a result of MBLC certifying it to participate in the State Aid Program. The second payment will be sent in the last quarter of FY 2012.

Kate stated that she is trying to be supportive of the staff and wants to build a great base going forward.

Kate said that there have been and will be changes to Ramsdell Library. There was discussion about the items that would be removed from the library and areas to be re-arranged. She stated that Dawn would like to purchase 4 arm chairs that may cost

\$2300, as well as Rosetta Stone in both Spanish and English. Kate asked what account to use for these purchases.

Kate said, in the future, she would like to purchase archival boxes to properly take care of the historical books and also have U.V. film applied to the windows in order to retard light damage.

Kate said that the Tucker Library Interiors bills for \$3190 and \$1848 (to build end caps for the children's area) will come out of Non-appropriated Mason Capital Fund.

Lastly, Kate stated that she had the police escort Mr. Magadini out of the building since he would not cooperate with library policies. She would like to revisit the Behavior Policy and would like this item put on a future agenda.

Karin Beebe said that it would be put on the January agenda.

MOTION: Holly Hamer to recommend to the treasurer and the Town Manager to pay \$3190 from non-appropriated Mason Capital Fund #61363.

SECOND: Ronnie Cunningham

VOTE: 6-0

Kate Deviny gave 2013 budget objectives and highlights.

C. Summary as Interim Director – Jessica Magelaner

Jessica Magelaner said that Evergreen is being pushed back again, which will give more time for training. She said that Evergreen is working out the bugs and may be released in mid February.

Jessica said that the Coleman Family wrote a letter about how much they enjoyed the summer reading program and the children's activities. As a result, they included a \$200 donation which will be put toward summer reading books.

Jessica thanked the trustees for their support during the transition. She said that she is very grateful.

Holly Hamer said that Jessica made a lot of sacrifices by working extra hours, always stepping up, etc and she is deeply appreciative.

D. Building and Grounds Committee – Holly Hamer and Hilda Banks Shapiro

Hilda said that Ron Yapple did tree work for the children's garden. He donated his work in honor of Karen Smith and Hilda Banks Shapiro.

Holly Hamer said that they are on the waiting list for the fence. The Historic District approved the plan for the garden and gave some suggestions. Holly said that they hope in the early spring to run a design contest for the rest of the garden. They hope for donations for this project.

Holly said that an order has been made for a short throat projector, screen, receiver, speakers, Xbox 360 and connect Wii for the Ramsdell Library. She said that it will come next month and there are volunteers to install the items. Holly said that replacing carpet/rugs in the children's area is next on the list.

Holly spoke about energy efficiency. She wants to know how to propel this into the next level to get things fixed.

Kevin O'Donnell said that he will have the Public Works Superintendent follow up on the items that they are concerned with. Kevin said Joe Sokul had a meeting with Kate about some items already.

Kate said that she will meet Joe again. Holly said that she will go over the details with Kate and hope for action.

E. Friends Committee – Ron Blumenthal and Holly Hamer

Holly Hamer thanked Hilda, Karen, Jim, staff and volunteers for their help with the book sale. 35 new Friends members signed up and \$2300 was made.

Hilda Banks Shapiro said that the book sale was very well organized and said that Holly Hamer did a great job.

Holly said that there were 20 people at the movie at the Ramsdell Library, all of whom had never been in the library before. Dawn would like to have this type of movie series on Wednesday's at the Ramsdell Library.

Ramsdell Library would also like to have a large book sale and would need to buy tables to do so. Volunteers are organizing books in preparation for a sale.

Holly announced that there will be a book reading and crafts at Mason Library before the Holiday Stroll.

There will be a mystery lovers group on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:30.

Dawn Barbieri said that she is trying to do an outreach with Muddy Brook Elementary School to have a children's book club. She is working with the teachers to get some ideas who will then speak to the children about it.

3. Special Orders – election of treasurer

Hilda Banks Shapiro nominated Holly Hamer as treasurer.

VOTE: 6-0

4. Unfinished Business

A. Computer Committee – Jessica Magelaner said that they are still looking at what they want and where.

Kate Deviny said that she would like to have MAC computers which will help when having classes in the library.

B. Summation of charter changes that concern the library – Holly Hamer said that she read the proposed changes to the charter at the last Board of Selectmen meeting. She said that the by-laws now need updating as they exist in the town code to reflect the current use not to be in violation of the town charter.

Karin Beebe suggested that this be the focus of the January Meeting.

C. Centennial Committee – Karin Beebe volunteered to be the chair of the committee. She said that it would be great to feature American authors for a monthly book read.

Holly Hamer suggested that money be appropriated for this event; up to \$1500 from State Aid.

MOTION: Holly Hamer to appropriate \$1500 from Mason State Aid to subsidize the centennial programs.

SECOND: Hilda Banks Shapiro

VOTE: 6-0

Kate Deviny suggested a big party on the day the Mason Library was built and all fines should be forgiven on that day.

D. Letter to former director – Jim Stark said that the letter was ready to be signed and mailed.

5. New Business

A. Continuing to have library as item on Selectmen's agenda – All agree to discontinue being on the agenda.

Kevin O'Donnell said that no action needs to be taken as they will no longer be on the agenda beginning in January. Kevin said to get in touch with him if there is something that they need to discuss or would like to be put on the agenda.

B. Financial accounting discussion – Holly Hamer said that there has been a lot of confusion and said that she will get clarity on what has been spent and where. All agree.

C. Movie licensing- Holly Hamer said that Anne Just bought a license for \$450 that wasn't used. She said that it will expire soon and they are awaiting the bill. Kate Deviny said that she is happy to find out who it is used by and will research the current licensing issue. Kate said that she would like to have a movie every Thursday night and licensing would be important.

6. Citizen Speak Time

Nancy Hahn said that there is not an updated job description which had been a problem for the Library Director Search Committee.

Kevin O'Donnell responded that the job description is the responsibility of the Town Manager. Holly Hamer suggested that the trustees work on a job description and present suggestions to the Town Manager.

Kevin O'Donnell agreed- he added that the Assistant Director could not be involved in the process.

Karen Smith said a question that was asked by the search committee was if the Director should have input into the job description. Karen echoed the feeling that Holly had about the job description and said that the Trustees, the Director and the Assistant Director should all sit down and review/ update the job description to then present to the Town Manager.

Karen Smith said that she would like to see the DVD collection get bigger and better. She said that there isn't a DVD store in town and it is critical that the library pick up the slack on that.

Pat Mullin said that there used to be 3 shelves of new books and there is now only 1. She feels that the importance of keeping a great collection of new books has been forgotten. Pat suggested that there be a group of avid readers who make suggestions to Kate for new books; both fiction and non-fiction.

Kate said that she is happy to take suggestions for new books.

7. Trustee Speak Time

Ronnie Cunningham said that she recently met with Mr. Chartock and asked him to write about the expanded library hours and he didn't know about them. She challenged him to write about them in his Saturday column.

Jim Stark said that he had asked Ron Blumenthal about the results to the survey in which patrons wanted more Sunday Hours. He asked if there is any further information on this. Ron was not present so Holly Hamer said that she will ask him for the information.

Tom Blauvelt responded to Karin Beebe's earlier statement by saying that she outlined very commendable goals. He said how to go about accomplishing your goals is also important. Tom said that Karin's style of leadership has been detrimental to the Library. He said the most recent example is how she tried to 'disrupt, sabotage and undermine' the search committee and discredit the members on the committee.

He said that he is asking Karin Beebe to step down as Chair because of the way that you go about things. Tom said, under her leadership, allowing Anne Just to be treated so poorly at her last meeting was not the Board's finest hour.

Ronnie Cunningham agreed.

Hilda Banks Shapiro disagreed and said that Karin Beebe has accomplished a lot of things.

Holly Hamer said during the course of the last year, through Karin's leadership, new by-laws have been put out. She said to look at what has been accomplished in the long run.

Ronnie Cunningham responded that saying the search committee is unqualified was unacceptable and put them in a difficult position. It is inappropriate to have any candidate come into an interview having read that statement.

Tom said that the level of expectations is higher for a chair. He said that she is an asset as a trustee, but not as a chair.

Jim Stark said that he would like to see her stay on.

Karin Beebe will continue as the Chair of the Library Trustees.

8. **Adjournment** - On a motion by Holly Hamer, seconded by Hilda Banks Shapiro, the Board adjourned their meeting at 7:17.

Respectfully submitted,

Cara Becker

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Recording Secretary

STATEMENT OF THE LIBRARY TRUSTEES

We of the Board of Trustees of the Great Barrington Libraries are of the unanimous opinion that the ultimate resolution of the issue of the control of the library lies in the political, not the legal realm. That is to say, it is the people in the town who will decide, not the town's legal counsel.

Whatever ambiguities or contradictions that the 1992 Charter contains about the designated powers of the Town Manager over specific departments, wherein his control over the library is omitted, must stand on its merits. Whether this omission was purposeful or just an error is moot. The intentions of the committee in 1992 are irrelevant. The charter says what it says. If it needs to be changed, it must be done at either a special town meeting or the annual town meeting. The townspeople must be the final arbiters of the debate. The resolution of this problem must be political.

Until the Charter is amended, the Board of Trustees of the Great Barrington Libraries maintains that we abide by the current charter.

We recommend by majority vote that an interim library director be moved up from within the present staff. Accordingly, the present assistant director at Mason, Jessica Magelaner, who is

experienced and highly qualified, should become the interim library director until the town decides who has the power to appoint a new library director.