

Great Barrington Libraries Board of Trustees  
April 10, 2014  
5:30 P.M.  
Mason Library

**I. Call to Order**

Meeting called to order by Ed Abrahams at 5:35 PM

**A. Attendance:**

**Present:**      Ed Abraham's (EA)      Kathy Plungis (KP)  
                 Adam Gudeon (AG)      Lauren Clark (LC)  
                 Holly Hamer (HH)      Hilda Banks-Shapiro (HB-S)

**Amanda M-DeGiorgis (AM-DiG) Director**

**Audience: 1**

**B. Approval of March minutes .**

AG made a motion to approve the March minutes.

2nd LC

Vote: 5-0 With one abstention (HH)

**C. Trustees' Announcements:**

None

**II. Report of the Officers, Boards, & Standing Committees**

**A. Chair's Report:**

EA reported that the Historical Society has requested that their fundraiser Art Show remain in place for a longer period of time, from the end of May to mid July.

KP made a motion that the Historical Art Show run from the end of May to mid-July.

2nd by EA

Vote 6 - 0

**B. Director's Report:**

AM-DiG: See the attached report.

**C. Treasurer's Report:**

HH stated that all is on line and that more DVD's will be ordered.

**D. Friends' Report**

HH stated that seven people viewed the movie shown at Ramsdell and that Mason Library had twenty people view the movie shown there.

The ongoing used book sale has been positive not only financially but it has allowed books stored in the lower back rooms at Mason to be taken to new homes.

### **E. Buildings and Grounds:**

HH reported that a bench for the Children's Garden in the back of Mason Library has been broken and that a search for sturdier benches is underway.

She stated that various items including a children's picnic table and play balls would benefit the Children's Garden. There are also areas that need reseeding.

HH made a motion that the Whitfield Children's Reading Garden account and the Children's Craft/Reading Garden account be used to fund the above named items up to \$2,200. It was also stated that the account with the least amount of money in it should be drawn down first and use the second account if necessary.

2nd by HB-S

A discussion ensued. It was asked whether a permanent chess board table also be placed in that area. HH responded that it was not necessary. There were a number of chess sets in the Children's section that can be moved outside when the library is open.

Vote: 6 - 0

HH discussed the possibility of purchasing new (upholstered or not) chairs for the main reading area of Mason Library. Chairs were to be repaired &/or the upholstery cleaned over the winter. It was noted that this job is on the DPW Supervisor's list.

## **III. Unfinished Business**

### **A. Ramsdell Initiatives Plan:**

LC & HH: Gave a brief report on Ramsdell stating that the patrons that use that library seem to use the library more as a social gathering area and also for its WIFI capabilities. That the magazine subscriptions may be cut back as there is little perusal of many of them.

The Young Adult Room continues to receive little use and those books will begin to be culled with many of the young adult books placed on the regular book shelves. It was noted that the art books that were donated last year may be placed in that area.

The left side of the library is being considered for display of historical items, a museum type of display.

### **B. Policy Review:**

HH & LC: Met with AM-DiG and agreed that most of the policies listed on the library website were not passed. This discussion will continue.

### **C. Building & Maintenance/Repair Review**

It was noted that the recently repaired front steps of Mason Library has mortar that is crumbling. The request for new windows at Ramsdell Library has gone out to bid.

### **D. Logo Update:**

LC stated that a meeting will be held soon with JM and AM-DiG and the new logo designer to go over specifics.

**E. Brochure Update:**

AG: An initial design will be gone over with AM-DiG.

**F. Library Evaluation:**

EA: This will be addressed when the new Trustees are on board, after the May elections.

**G. Welcome Amanda party:**

EA: The date has been changed to Friday, May 9th from 6 - 8 pm. the Mason Library will close early that eve. Three musicians have been booked for entertainment.

HH made a motion to appropriate up to \$225 ( \$75.00 each) from the State Aid account as honorariums for the entertainers.

2nd: HB-S

Vote 6 - 0

**H. Town Website Review:**

EA & AM-G will follow up on the information that should be listed on the town website pertaining to the libraries.

**IV . New Business:**

A. Historical Society Art Show date change: has already been discussed and approved.

**VII. Adjournment:**

HB-S made a Motion to Adjourn.

LC seconded.

The Board voted (6-0) to adjourn at 6:16 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kathleen Plungis, Secretary

Statistics: March

	Total Patrons	Adult programs	Children's programs	Computer use +iPad	Quiet/study	Meeting room	Items added
Ramsdell	673	19 programs 93 attending	3 programs 21 attending	72 + 2	7	-	136
Mason	11,219	6 programs 47 attending	17 programs 292 attending	1590 (331 kids)	183	43	505

News:

-Events:

- Hosting BFWW was a big success with their events averaging over 50 people. Continues to be a popular and growing event.
- Family Astronomy: Telescopes and Time Machines was a big hit for the Children's Library with 46 attendees braving the cold weather.
- Shakespeare & Co are coming to Ramsdell April 23<sup>rd</sup> to do a Children's Event "The Life and Times of Shakespeare." This will be the first time we've had Shakespeare & Co. at the libraries.
- Singer/Song Writer Bruce Mandel will be performing on April 26<sup>th</sup> thanks to a Cultural Council Grant applied for by former director, Kate. ☺ - 2:00

-Thanks to Jane, our side planter has been cleaned out and planted with pansies for Spring.

Works in progress:

-We are still waiting on the front door repairs and the replacement door opener.

-With the new BIFF grant of DVDs we are currently exploring options to add more DVD shelving at Mason.

-I am working with Maureen Hickey and Margaret Cherin regarding the opening of the GB Historical Society Art Fundraiser and the hanging of the artwork.