

MINUTES
Board of Library Trustees
Thursday, September 11, 2014

I. Call to order: 5:30 pm

Signed → 
Ed Abrahams

Present: Holly Hamer, Ed Abrahams, Hilda Banks Shapiro, Lauren Clark, Adam Gudeon (arrived 5:36). Staff: Amanda DeGiorgis

Correction to the minutes of August 14, 2014:
Children's performer received \$450 not \$250.

MOTION by Ed: To approve the minutes of August 14, 2014 as corrected.
SECOND: Hilda
Passed

Ed requested a Change of Order to add "Art Exhibits" to New Business. No objection.

II. Reports

A. Director's Report. (See attached).

Amanda asked Board for approval to spend \$364 in State Aid for a mailing to Housatonic residents. It was suggested she research robo calls as a lower cost option.

MOTION by Ed: To authorize up to \$364 for a mailing to Housatonic residents if necessary and no better options are found.
SECOND: Hilda
Passed

B. Friends Report

C. Buildings and Grounds - No report.

D. Building Maintenance - No report.

III. Unfinished Business.

Historic Commission and Ramsdell

Paul Ivory spoke to the trustees about the relationship between the Historic Commission and the Ramsdell. The Commission has been a steward of the space and if allowed to stay will continue to care for the space. They would love to find a more suitable and permanent space in the future. He requested reconsideration of the decision from the previous meeting which limited the Historic Commission and the Historical Society to the space they currently occupy.

Holly explained a plan to for an addition to the back of the Ramsdell to make the first floor accessible, which would delay the more expensive (and possibly politically unacceptable) plan to make the second floor accessible as well.

MOTION by Holly: That the Board of Library Trustees request, pending approval from the Town Manager, CPA funding for a small addition to the rear of the Ramsdell Library to begin to create accessibility.

SECOND: Hilda
Passed

MOTION by Holly: That we rescind the motion of last month regarding the Historic Commission and the Historical Society under the aegis of the Historic Commission, and allow them to expand and use the upstairs space until it is needed by the Library.

SECOND: Hilda
Passed: 4 to 1 with Lauren voting no.

MOTION by Holly: That we authorize up to \$5000 from State Aid to get concept rendering and costing from an architect or contractor for the proposed addition so we can complete the CPA application.

SECOND: Lauren
Passed

Halloween Party

Saturday, November 1, 2014

Holly described the party to be hosted by the Trustees and Friends of the Library in the Mason Library.

- Scary movie in the history room
- Witches banquet with creepy food
- Children's program from 5-6
- Adult party with music from 6:30 until 9pm

IV New Business

Work Party: Holly will recruit volunteers to take down the blinds and do other clean-up in the Ramsdell.

Art Exhibits: Ed would like Trustee approval to have ongoing art exhibits in the main reading room of the Mason.

MOTION by Ed: That we create a committee to organize a process to have art galleries take turns hanging art shows in the Mason.

SECOND: Holly
Passed. Lauren recused herself.

V. Citizen Speak

Pat Hollenbeck spoke about an initiative in Hudson to publicize the library and suggested a consultant who coordinated it.

MOTION by Hilda: To adjourn

SECOND: Lauren
Passed.

Statistics: August

	Total Patrons	Adult programs	Children's programs	Computer use +iPad	Quiet/ study	Meeting room	Items added
Ramsdell	842	9 programs 39 attending	9 programs 51 attending	69 + 1	8	-	156
Mason	13,257	8 programs 59 attending	13 programs 227 attending	1628 +2 (362 kids)	150		540

News, Projects and Proposals:

-Summer is winding down and with a full staff we are starting to get caught up on projects around the library.

-We have a lot of great adult and children's programs coming up this month. We have a local musician, Doug Schmolze, performing at Mason (9/19) and the Powder Keg Writing Sessions starting again at Ramsdell (Weds in Sept). Mason's Children's Room sees the return of reading to a dog (a big hit last year) on Saturdays and a song centered playgroup for young children on Friday mornings. Ramsdell's Children's Room is back in the swing with Saturday art classes taught by our very own Leslie.

-We have made some changes with the public computers at Mason to help with the trouble we have been having with the printer all summer. The computers in the front reading room at Mason are no longer set up to print. The computers by the restrooms and side entrance are set up to print. This has helped us with troubleshooting and allowed the printer to be up and working consistently.

-A library patron wishes the after-hours use of Mason's Community Room to be brought to the attention of the board. She is aware of the Senior Center being available after hours with the Police holding the key and the programmer being responsible for lock up, etc. I believe this might be a town policy.

-Talya, our new assistant director, and I have been working on an Open House for Ramsdell on October 18th. We would like to use the Open House to conduct a survey regarding the usage and desire for services at Ramsdell. We both hope this will give us a better idea as to what is needed and where we should devote our energy. Our plan is to send out postcards with an invitation to the Open House to reach library patrons as well as those citizens who do not currently use the library. In order to do this, we will need some extra funds to pay for printing and postage. I would like to ask the Board for \$364 from State Aid to print and mail these invitations.