

Great Barrington Libraries Board of Trustees

February 12, 2015

5:30 P.M.

Mason Library

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Holly Hamer at 5:30 P.M.

A. Attendance:

Present: Ed Abrahams (EA) Holly Hamer (HH) Kathy Plungis (KP)
Hilda Banks-Shapiro (HB-S) Adam Gudeon (AG) Lauren Clark (LC)
Amanda DeGiorgis (ADeG), Director

B. Approval of January 8th minutes:

EA moved to accept.

HB-S seconded.

Vote: 6-0

Approval of the January 15th minutes:

EA moved to accept.

HB-S seconded.

Vote: 6-0

TOWN CLERK
GREAT BARRINGTON
MAR 16 2015 PM 3:24

C. Trustee Announcements:

None

II. Reports of Officers, Boards & Standing Committees:

A. Director's Report:

See attached report. ADeG stated that she and EA attended the Legislative Breakfast the end of January. The area library directors were told that more cuts will be made to State Aid in order to cut the state deficit.

The Staff continues to weed books from the two libraries' shelves.

ADeG has received the owner's permission to take down the mounted fish at Ramsdell Library. The owner gives up any claim to them. ADeG will offer them to the Historical Society and to another previously interested party.

The entrance to the Ramsdell Children's room has been relocated to between the two marble pillars, creating a larger, more inviting entrance. ADeG stated that the library has received positive comments on the entrance relocation.

EA moved to authorize up to \$200.00 from State Aid for the replacement of the bulletin board located outside of Mason library. This negates the money authorized last month when ADeG found the

replacement part cost more than what was allocated. Further discussion ensued as to whether the sign should be replaced with a white board rather than the current type. ADeG will explore this.

HB-S seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 - 0

ADeG spoke about the current book display at Mason Library; "Blind Date with a Book" and its success. She was told to publicize it so that more people may visit the library.

HH brought up the funding for programming, that there has not been a budget for programming (the monies coming out of State Aid) and that the Director should begin to include it on a separate line in the library budget. ADeG stated that it can not be done for FY2016 but can be considered for FY2017.

B. Friends:

HH reported that there was good attendance for the movies shown at both libraries.

She stated that the Friends will continue to fund the purchase of area museum passes.

III. Unfinished Business:

A. Ramsdell Library update:

HH gave an update of the suggestions made at a January visit to Ramsdell Library. The relocation of the librarian desks to the back room met with disagreement by KP, with KP wanting a more visible presence of the Staff.

After a discussion that included ADeG, it was agreed that the desks would be moved there on a temporary basis.

LC said that pertaining to the mural for the Ramsdell Children's Room, that a theme should be chosen for the space and that the mural, wall color, furniture, etc., reflect that theme. LC, AG, and the Staff will brainstorm ideas that would tie into the village, mills, countryside, woodlands.

AG will go back to get more accurate measurements for the mural.

B. Library Hours update:

EA stated that the Town Manager has reached out to the Library Union members regarding Sunday hours.

HH stated that the Mason hours should also be discussed. Whether one "late night" could be built into the weekly schedule in order to expand the use of the library for community events, programming. That this could be done with flexible hours for the Staff.

The Trustees recommended that ADeG ask the Staff "To consider staffing a late closing one day a week in order to expand the use of the library for community events, programming. That there could be flexible hours for the Staff."

Further discussion ensued as to overall evening hours at Mason. ADeG was asked to keep a head count regarding the number of patrons that are in the library between the hours of 6:00 & 7:00 pm.

ADeG will do this, she said that the number of patrons varies, there may be one or two nights that there are a few people and another night a larger group, but that night with larger numbers varies, there seems to be no set pattern.

On another matter, ADeG stated that with the earlier 10:00 am opening at Ramsdell, people are arriving at that earlier time. She also stated that CHP will begin a storytelling group in mid March at Ramsdell. The new "Open" banner for Ramsdell has arrived and it is being used.
(EA then left to attend another meeting.)

C. Ramsdell Mural:

Already discussed, under "A".

D. CIP list for both Libraries:

HH noted that the FY 2016 CIP plans are currently stated to be funded with Library State Aid. ADeG will clarify (that \$26,000) with the Town Manager.

ADeG noted that the CPA did approve the moving forward of the CPA monies for the repairs to Mason Library's cupola.

IV: New business:

A Long Range Plan:

The Trustees and ADeG began a review of each of the LRP's goals and objectives to determine what has been accomplished. The Trustees will continue to review the LRP and along with ADeG, agreed to place a further review of the LRPlan on next month's Agenda.

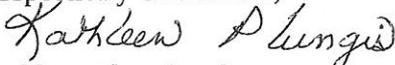
V. Adjournment:

HB-S made a Motion to Adjourn.

KP seconded.

The Board voted (5 - 0) to adjourn at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,


Kathleen Plungis, Secretary

Statistics: January

	Total Patrons	Adult programs	Children's programs	Computer use +iPad	Quiet/ study	Meeting room	Items added
Ramsdell	714	6 programs 42 attending	9 programs 58 attending	48	2	-	97
Mason	9,093	6 programs 48 attending	13 programs 258 attending	1,451 (301 kids)	146	29	326

News, Projects and Proposals:

- ❖ January was tough weather wise but thankfully it was warm in the libraries. Holiday decorations came down and the winter book display helped many patrons pass the time on those snowy days. The family movie for January, "Frozen: the Sing-a-long version" was the most well attended event this month closely followed by the children's book signing by Elizabeth Lombardi. The children's art workshops at Ramsdell have also become very popular and will continue every Saturday morning.
- ❖ **Computer Update:** Our three computers have been returned! After installing new hard drives the computers are back and we are back to full strength for public computer access.
- ❖ **Library Legislative Breakfast:** Ed and I both attended the Breakfast on January 23rd at BCC. Almost all of the Berkshire County libraries were represented and several of the legislators for Berkshire County were in attendance. The State Budget was discussed as well as the impact on funding for libraries. Overall, we have been extremely lucky with the support of our local legislators but we were told by many that our voices are important and we need to continue to fight for the recognition and funding libraries deserve.
- ❖ **Ramsdell:** Talya and I agreed upon and ordered our new "Open" flag for Ramsdell. It has arrived and we are currently using it on the door since the path to the sidewalk sign is hip deep in snow. Weeding continues in all areas of the library and thanks to Ed, Holly, Lauren and Talya we have changed the entrance to the Children's Room at Ramsdell. The new entrance is the mirror image of the entrance to the Adult Reading Room and nicely opens the space up.

- ❖ **Mason:** I have been searching for chairs and a round table for the History Room but have not come across anything I really like. I took a look at a replacement sign for our rolling sign and I will need additional funds authorized to purchase it. Demco has the replacement sign available for \$72 and I was authorized to spend \$50.
- ❖ **Donations:** Mason and Ramsdell received individual donations from the Thursday Morning Club for \$200 each. Mason also received a \$500 from a Mr. Joseph of Sharon, CT. None of the donations have specific conditions attached to them. I have sent out thank you notes to all the donors.
- ❖ **Programming:** February is Black History Month and both libraries are playing host to events. Mason will have a book display throughout the month and on February 28th there will be a community reading and celebration of WEB DuBois. Ramsdell will host a showing of the film "At the River I Stand" and Mason will host a showing of the film "I Am." These films have been co-arranged by two library patrons with Holly helping out for one of them. Talya will be rolling out a special book display the first half of February called "Blind Date with a Book". Books are wrapped in brown paper and a brief summary is pasted on the front. The hope is that patrons will pick up a book that sounds interesting without knowing the title or author. Staff members have picked books and there has been a lot of excitement about these mystery dates.

