

Great Barrington Libraries Board of Trustees

July 9, 2015

5:30 PM

Mason Library

231 Main Street

Great Barrington, MA 01230

I. **Call to Order:** Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

A. **Attendance:** Kathy Plungis, Ed Abrahams, Patrick Hollenbeck, Adam Gudeon and Amanda DeGiorgis-Library director. Lauren Clark arrived at 5:40 p.m. Absent: Hilda Banks-Shapiro, Audience-4

B. **Approval of June minutes:** E. Abrahams motion to approve June minutes, P. Hollenbeck second, unanimous vote 5-0

C. **Trustee Announcements:** K. Plungis congratulated Adam Gudeon on the birth of his new daughter. Trustees received a thank you letter from Amanda DeGiorgis for donation to the Natalie Gorenson fund. K. Plungis received an email from a town resident about a program in Millerton, NY. The program has bird houses filled with children's books. This would be outside the library and a child could take a book for free and leave a book. K. Plungis has passed information on to Amanda and Lori to get their approval. E. Abrahams offered to help in any way he can. H. Hamer mentioned someone in town makes elaborate birdhouses and there is a possibility the birdhouse could be the shape of the library. K. Plungis stated that a motion is not needed until Lori has been consulted.

II. Reports of Officers, Boards, and Standing Committees

A. **Director's Report :** A. DeGiorgis: (see attached report) Amanda did comment on a few items. Ramsdell launched their Summer Reading program on Saturday June 27<sup>th</sup> and the theme is "Every Hero has a Story". The staff is still waiting on a date to move books for floor sanding. E. Abrahams suggested calling a moving company to assist with moving shelves and books. Also some of the shelves are attached to the wall. New hard drives and software have been installed on library computers and are running much faster than before. Drainage problem at Mason library will be fixed in July. Great Barrington Historical Society received a CPA grant and part of their artifacts/archives needs to be removed from Ramsdell and moved to the Wheeler House. A. DeGiorgis will notify Library Trustees when the meeting with the Historical Society is confirmed. A member of the Historical Society, a member of the Library Trustees and the Town Manager will be in attendance. This has nothing to do with Ramsdell but a stipulation in the grant to spend money and fix the Wheeler House to warrant spending CPA grant.

B. **Treasurer's Report** – E. Abrahams: Nothing to report until year end close out is completed.

C. **Friends' Report** -- H. Hamer: Movies will be the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month. With all the paint flaking and wood rotting, exposed windows need to be installed at Ramsdell. Air

Conditioner needs to be installed because of extreme heat in building. E. Abrahams motion to formally request the town to purchase an air conditioner for Ramsdell by end of July, L. Clark second, unanimous vote 5-0. H. Hamer mentioned the "Friends Book Sale" totaled nearly \$915.00. Nearly 1,000 items were sold at 50 cents/ \$1.00 per item. A fair amount of money was spent "by the Friends" this month on storage bins-\$336.00, book bags-\$209.00, printing-\$78.00 and \$20.00 refreshments. K. Plungis, mentioned that the first day of Summer Reading program was a success.

D. Buildings & Grounds Report – K. Plungis: J. Sokul mowing library lawns, railing is not attached to the bottom support rail and J. Sokul has been notified. Grounds and lawns at Mason needs to maintained.

### III. Unfinished Business

A. **Exhibit Policy update** – L. Clark E.Abrahams, L.Clark and H. Hamer met to review policy and stated that it was fine. Suggested have a jury/committee to meet, ask Peggy Reeves to head Jury and mentioned she wasn't responsible to hang art work. E. Abrahams not part of committee willing to hang art work. L. Clark stated she didn't get a 100% commitment from Peggy. Peggy is an art teacher and artist has been working for Barnbrook for years. H. Hamer asked if a stipend would be possible to pay Peggy for her time. K. Plungis will look into the stipend.

B. **Ramsdell mural update** – A. Gudeon: Art work was presented to the board with a computer printout. It has be made to scale for the wall and it was agreed the background would be blue. Final design will be completed in August and finished product in September. A. DeGiorgis will have the final say. P. Hollenbeck stated that the floors should be sanded before the mural is hung. It was agreed to wait until the end of September to hang mural.

C. **Citizen Speak procedure update** – E. Abrahams: E. Abrahams mentioned there are three issues. 1. Two different sets of bylaws. H. Hamer mentioned that the printed copy of bylaws is correct and online bylaws are incorrect. To change bylaws takes a majority vote. 2. Board of Selectmen minutes from February 23, 2015 on Citizens Speak petition. The Town Manager consulted Town Counsel and the response stated that petition articles would require resolution as an advisory law. Michelle Loubert stated that this is incorrect and that Article 28 on Town Meeting warrant was not an advisory article. The Article was sent to Secretary of State's Office and Attorney General's office. Town Manager had advised every board and committee to include citizen speak to agendas. According to Board of Selectmen's minutes the Town Manager was advised by Town Counsel that the article is an advisory article. The Library Trustees removed Citizen Speak from agenda because citizens are able to speak anytime during meeting. 3. Lastly E. Abrahams stated that it is not necessary to have Citizen's Speak on agenda. Michelle Loubert stated minutes from Annual Town Meeting Article 28 Citizen Speak not indicated as advisory law. Michelle Loubert also stated Citizen Speak should appear on agenda and brought forth. Michelle Loubert stated that she was quite disappointed out of 22 boards and committees only 2 have Citizens Speak. E. Abrahams stated that town council stated it is an advisory law. K. Plungis is not ready to make a motion and will speak with Town Manager regarding this issue. E. Abrahams stated that bylaw changes must be approved by the Attorney General's office.

IV. New Business: None

V. **Adjournment:** L. Clark motion to adjourn at 6:35 p.m., P. Hollenbeck second, unanimous vote 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Walker  
Secretary

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terry Walker". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name and title.