

GREAT BARRINGTON LIBRARIES
TRUSTEE MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 12, 2009
RAMSDELL LIBRARY

Present: Anne Just, Ellie Smith, Karen Smith, Hilda Shapiro, Ann Grochmal

Guests: Kevin O'Donnell, Great Barrington Town Manager
Dawn Barbieri, Assistant Librarian, Ramsdell Library
Linda Santos, Assistant Librarian, Mason Library

Executive Session with Town Manager:

Review of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the January 2009 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Director's Report

The FY 2010 **budget summary** was presented. Trustees inquired why it was not level funded. Anne Just explained that an inaccurate water/sewer cost projection and increased demand on our borrowing system were responsible for the increases. The Trustees suggested our libraries should be considered places of refuge during hard financial times, as well as during extreme weather situations.

Anne Just presented comparative data concerning the suggestion that **fees be charged to patrons of decertified libraries**. The data showed that regional libraries are not charging these fees. The Board agreed to a "no fees" policy.

Anne Just recommended that **out-of-state patrons** be charged \$20/family/year. The Trustees voted in favor of the charge.

The Berkshire Independent Film Festival continues to request use of our rooms although they have repeatedly been told that **room use policy** states all programs must be free and open to the public. The US Census Department and Imagine Community are scheduled for programs in February and March.

Anne Just and Ellie Smith will meet with the Town Accountant, Town Engineer and Town Manager to discuss **the Mason Project punch list** (drainage, handicap ramp, reading garden) after the budget is completed.

The Lillian Chesanow Literacy fund is generating @ \$35/year. This is not enough to fund a specific literacy program. Anne suggested that the money available be used to

purchase DVDs to teach non-readers how to read. The Trustees agreed and directed Anne to call Mr. Chesnow regarding the decision.

Thad and Sarah Zmistowski donated **\$50 to Ramsdell in memory of Adeline Angelini**. Dawn would like to spend it on children's books. Trustees agreed to this

The Hayseed Hill Foundation has donated **\$1000 to the Great Barrington Libraries** through Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. This is the second year we have received their donation.

Treasurer's Report

No Treasurer's Report was available.

Other Business

The Library Legislative Breakfast will be held at the Berkshire Athenaeum on Friday, March 6th at 8:00 am.

The Titanic Fundraiser is scheduled for Friday, February 27. Banners, posters and displays have been installed at Mason. Dawn Barbieri informed the Board that she has been selling tickets and encouraged everyone to do the same.

Side tables and lamps have been added to the soft seating areas of the reading room. The lamps were a gift from Charlie and Kathy Plungis.

Follow-up

Ellie Smith will determine how much was donated toward the Lillian Chesnow Literacy Fund but deposited into Mason donations because the Fund had not yet been created in the accounting system.

Karen Smith will ask for return of these donations to the Chesnow Fund.

Anne Just and Karen Smith will meet to review finances.

Anne Just will ask Kevin O'Donnell that Karen Smith and Ellie Smith be included in the Mason review meeting to be scheduled after the budget is completed.

Anne Just will call Mr. Chesnow regarding use of Literacy Fund money.

Out-of-State fines will be reinstated as of April 1.

Karen Smith will set up a specific fund for programming.