

GREAT BARRINGTON LIBRARIES
231 Main St.
Great Barrington, Ma. 01230

Great Barrington Libraries' Board of Trustees
December 9, 2010
7:30 P.M.
Mason Library

PRESENT: KARIN BEEBE
TOM BLAUVELT
HILDA BANKS SHAPIRO
JIM STARK

NOT PRESENT: RONNIE CUNNINGHAM
KAREN SMITH

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Karin Beebe at 7:30 P.M.

A. Attendance – Ronnie Cunningham and Karen Smith not present

B. Introduction of visitors –

Anne Just introduced Sarah Westlind who has been promoted to full time at the circulation desk, and Wendy Conway who works in the Young Adult Collection and in the Children's area.

C. Approval of minutes from November 9, 2010 meeting

MOTION: Tom Blauvelt to approve the minutes from the November 9, 2010 meeting as revised.

SECOND: Jim Stark

VOTE: 4-0

2. Reports of Officers

A. Library Director's Report – Anne Just

Anne Just reported that the Friends film was off to a great start, with 31 attendees.

Karen Ball said that there were about 20 children and 10 adults at the gingerbread house event. She added that there is still a pre-school story time taking place.

Dawn said that Leslie will have a Holiday Craft for children on Saturdays at the Ramsdell Library.

Anne Just stated that "Friends", (with Dawns help) will be hosting a concert at the Ramsdell Library on December 26th.

Anne stated that she has submitted the FY12 budget. She stated that more resources should go towards adult circulation.

She stated that Jean Wheeler released funds for use in other library projects.

Barbara Seier restricted her funds to be used in the archive rooms.

In regards to the hours change, she is waiting for the results of the next survey to make a decision.

She stated that the new library cards have come in.

Anne Just stated that Barnes and Nobles discontinued 'business to business' accounts so she will order the E-readers from Amazon. She is waiting for a letter from the treasurer stating that the funds are available and she will then place the order.

Mango is up and running.

Anne Just said that they had about 30 applications for the open position. They interviewed three candidates and offered the position which was turned down. She will be interviewing one more candidate on Monday.

She stated that the smart board is here and it works, although she feels that it is too low. The shelves that she ordered will be delivered soon.

B. Treasurer's Report – Tom Blauvelt - Nothing to report

3. Reports from Special Committee

A. Anniversary Committee – Hilda Banks Shapiro

Hilda stated that there will be an event on May 14 – Saturday afternoon – and it will be geared towards families. The children will be invited to come as their favorite book or character from a book. Posters will be made and goodies and prizes will be given out.

B. Friends

1. Movie Night – was a success and the series was well received. The second part will be showed on January 6th. There is a budget for two more movies. Some people would have enjoyed a discussion after the movie. Holly would like to work this in if it doesn't go too late.
2. Winter Stroll Event will take place on Saturday. There will be a poetry reading, stories and the room will be decorated like a snow globe.
3. Hours survey
4. Book Sales – there is a profit of about \$50 a week from the book sales in the children's and young adult sections. Holly Hamer stated that donations can be dropped off at any entrance. She would like to know who the books are from in order to send a thank you note and a tax deduction form.

Jim Stark asked where someone can find out about events?

Anne Just said that events are posted on the friends Facebook and she will re-direct from the main web-site as well.

4. Unfinished Business – see Library Director's report

- A. MANGO installation update – Anne Just
- B. Building consultant for Ramsdell Library – Anne Just
- C. Hours update – Anne Just

Ron Blumenthall stated that they surveyed 49 people (all of whom do not currently use the library because of the current hours) and the responses came back that the biggest issue is that there are no Sunday hrs, limited weekend hours, and a great need for later weekday hours. The responses were the same for both libraries.

Anne Just said that they would like to stay open 6 days between the 2 libraries; closed 1 weekday and Sunday.

Holly Hamer said that she found it disturbing that there was a quote in the Record in which Anne said 'we really need to increase access to the library by increasing hours at both libraries.' Holly felt that Anne should have stated that there will be hours changing or a restructuring of hours. Holly stated that the public would rather have the library open more hours than have it closed 2 full days. They are also asking for it to be open on Sun. afternoon.

Anne replied that the paper misquoted her. She stated that she does not have the money to increase the hours as stated.

She added that a lot of what the staff does is completed while patrons aren't in the library.

Linda agreed that things have to be done before opening and said that there are a lot of areas that volunteers can't help in.

Holly said that she would like to see figures – number of staff, circulation #'s, hours that have to be covered etc.

Anne responded that the profiles are set up by the state.

Karin Beebe asked that Ron print out the survey results.

Anne Just said that she gets applications from Seniors (they get a senior tax right off if they volunteer 2hrs a week) who want to volunteer but they can't be used to do a union job and they would have to treat it like a job.

Karin Beebe suggested that there be a contract with parameters.

Holly agreed that it is a great program.

Karin Ball suggested that Friday night would be a great late night.

Karin Beebe confirmed that Sunday is normal pay.

Anne Just asked if there should be a meeting to respond to the survey that Ron sent out.

She also requested outlines of the requests/needs to figure out how to make it work.

Karin Beebe said that there should be a meeting about this solely.

She also stated that Dawn did a great job scheduling things for the library.

D. Library Cards – Anne Just – see above

E. Donation Calls – Anne Just – see above

5. New Business –

A. Hiring of part-time employee – Anne Just – see above

B. Ramsdell Historic Structure – Jim Starke.

Jim Starke submitted pictures and the application to the Board for their review. He stated that he seeks to put in an application to place the Ramsdell Library in the historic register. He wants to do this mostly for funding and stated that it doesn't restrict the owner of the building from doing anything.

MOTION: Jim Starke to send his request to the Board of Selectmen.

SECOND: Tom Blauvelt

VOTE: 4-0

C. Karin Beebe said that she feels that it is important to send the agenda and minutes to Friends.

MOTION: Tom Blauvelt to include 'friends' on the agenda and minutes.

SECOND: Jim Starke

VOTE: 4-0

Karin Beebe said that the smart board has been installed too low and that they are only able to see it from the front two rows.

MOTION: Tom Blauvelt to empower Anne to go to the tech office and the Dept. of Public Works to have the smart board moved.

SECOND: Jim Starke

VOTE: 4-0

Anne Just stated that they will have to pay for it.

Tom said that it could be taken from the donations account.

Karin Beebe asked the Board how they would feel about opening the library after hours to have a function. She stated that it would be a paid function and that someone would need to be here to staff it. She also asked how the Board felt about the function serving alcohol.

Karin Beebe felt that it is not a good idea.

Tom Blauvelt said that he is fine with the events but not with alcohol being served.

Anne Just said that she can't make anyone work the events, so a person must be found to work it.

Tom Blauvelt suggested an off-duty officer and stated that if the event can't be staffed then it would have to be cancelled.

Jim Starke said that he is 'ok' with the scenario and feels that it will bring more activity.

Anne Just said that the town protocol is that there is no alcohol served.

MOTION: Tom Blauvelt to send a favorable recommendation that the trustees will support people renting the library for after-hours functions.

SECOND: Hilda Banks Shapiro

VOTE: 4-0

MOTION: Tom Blauvelt that the Board does not support serving alcohol at the after-hours functions.

SECOND: Hilda Banks Shapiro

VOTE: 3-0-1 Jim Starke abstains

- 6. Public Comment :** David Magadini said that he has been notified that he has been banned from the library due to being in violation of a code/behavior policy. He feels that it is

absurd and his opinion is that there is an underlying reason for this. He also asked who the complainant is?

Anne replied that there is no underlying reason for the 6 month ban and that they do not have to reveal who complained.

On a motion by Tom Blauvelt, seconded by Jim Starke, the Board adjourned their meeting at 8:50.

Respectfully submitted,

Cara Becker
Recording Secretary