

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

Great Barrington Libraries' Board of Trustees
January 13, 2011
6:30 P.M.
Mason Library

PRESENT: KARIN BEEBE
TOM BLAUVELT
HILDA BANKS SHAPIRO
RONNIE CUNNINGHAM
KAREN SMITH
JIM STARK

KEVIN O'DONNELL

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Karin Beebe at 6:30 P.M.

A. Attendance – All Present

B. Approval of minutes from December 9, 2010 meeting

MOTION: Karen Smith to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2010 meeting as revised.

SECOND: Tom Blauvelt

VOTE: 6-0

2. Reports

A. Library Director's Report – Anne Just

Anne Just reported that Sandy Balayan, who is a new hire, is doing well. She has worked at both Mason and Ramsdell Libraries and they are glad to have her.

The process of hiring a building consultant to produce a 20 year needs study has been postponed to determine whether a formal RFP is needed and until funding has been voted upon.

The 'Internet Safety' program, that was scheduled yesterday, has been postponed due to snow.

Barbara Syer agreed to extend the scope of her donation to both the archives room and the local history room. Anne will go forward and order lamps and window treatments for both rooms.

E-readers – a local Barnes & Noble will set up the account and the paperwork for the purchase is with the Town Manager.

Anne stated that she has spoken with Corey Hines from the Council on Aging about planning an outreach session at Mason Library. They have also agreed to run a bus over once a week. The schedule has not been set yet.

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

C. Friends – Holly Hamer

1. Movie Night was very successful. They viewed "Garbage Dreams" and had close to 75 people attending. Unfortunately, many people couldn't see the screen or read the sub-titles. Karen Smith said that a bigger space is needed. She asked what the fire rating number is and Anne Just replied that it is 64 people seated.

Holly said that they will be asking people to make reservations in the future. The next film will be a Howard Zinn film to be viewed at Mason Library.

The B-Line Ramblers brought in 45-50 people at the Ramsdell Library.

The Winter Walk event was successful. Books were read while pictures were projected onto the smartboard. Everyone had a good time.

2. Book Sale –will take place on Saturday, February 26th. They will be concentrating on children's books. She said that she would love to see the trustees there to help.

Anne Just stated that the DPW will move boxes if needed.

Holly Hamer stated that she would also love to use the smartboard for classes; computer classes and English as a second language.

Kevin O'Donnell stated that he wants to look at expanding hours by adjusting the current hours and by utilizing volunteers. He stated that Superintendent Peter Dillon said that he has a new librarian at one school that is very good at bringing in volunteers. He stated that he would like to work with the Superintendent and the new librarian on this front. Kevin O'Donnell encourages the use of volunteers and encourages Friends to augment the process. He also stated that there is no money for additional staff. He has directed Anne Just to develop a schedule by March 1 for the Trustees review.

Karen Smith said that she is thrilled to see that this is on the forefront from his Office and asked why all of a sudden are they getting support?

Kevin O'Donnell replied that he was not focused on this in the past but always supported it.

Karen Smith repeated the question.

Kevin O'Donnell stated that it is more of a focus now that Friends is being 'resurrected' and also since he has been working with Peter Dillon to partner about such things.

She asked if, in the future, there are other issues that are not getting a response, who should they go to? Kevin O'Donnell replied first to Anne and then if there is still no response, to himself.

Holly Hamer asked if he would allow senior tax right-off volunteers.

Kevin O'Donnell replied absolutely.

Karen Smith asked what the first step is in being a volunteer.

Kevin O'Donnell replied that they would apply to Anne; seniors come to his office.

Karen Smith asked if there is anything in the contract that keeps them from opening the Library on a Sunday.

Kevin O'Donnell replied no, however union workers may want time and a half. He stated that he doesn't want to negotiate for Sunday hours.

Karen Smith suggested that it could be part of their regular work week.

Kevin O'Donnell said that they would probably bring it up.

Karen Smith asked if the donation account is a revolving fund.

Kevin O'Donnell replied that he doesn't know.

Karen Smith asked if he could find out so that they can re-allocate the funds to Friends.

Karen Smith asked if there are any restrictions to what job the volunteers can do.

Kevin O'Donnell said no, except for the Directors job.

Anne Just stated that she will follow-up with the new librarian at the school to begin getting volunteers.

3. Unfinished Business

A. eReader – as mentioned earlier – Anne Just is hoping to have it within the month.

B. Smartboard situation – Anne Just

Karin Beebe asked why the smartboard is not moved. Anne Just replied that if it was moved to the other wall, you will get fewer seats and it would be too high to use the touch screen.

After discussion about other options, Holly Hamer suggested a moveable cart made by smartboard. She said that she will send the information about the product to the Board.

MOTION: Karen Smith – that the Board of Trustees gets information about the moveable cart for the Smartboard.

SECOND: Ronnie Cunningham

VOTE: 6-0

Ronnie Cunningham agreed to work with Holly Hamer to research this option.

(Does it fit in the elevator, can it be transported in certain weather etc...)

C. New Staff – see Directors notes

D. HOURS

4. New Business

A. Wowbrary – Anne Just – tabled

B. Archaeology Camp – Anne Just spoke about this camp where there is a model dig that will teach children how to interpret what is found. She wanted to consider it for the 250th anniversary, however only 20 children can participate and it is very costly.

Karen Smith replied that we should consider it only if someone underwrites it. She suggested a contest that would allow the top 20 children to participate.

C. Chair Voting – Karin Beebe – as a point of clarification, Karin Beebe stated that according to Roberts Rule, a chairperson can vote.

Karen Smith said that the employees are taking up the whole parking lot.

Anne Just said that she has asked in the past and will strongly suggest it again.

MOTION: Karen Smith – to direct the staff to not use the parking lot, but to use the street or the Church parking lot.

SECOND: Ronnie Cunningham

VOTE: 6-0

Karen Smith asked if it is possible to have the staff where name tags. Anne replied yes, however the volunteers would only say ‘volunteer.’

MOTION: Karen Smith – that Anne Just order name tags and direct her staff to wear them.

SECOND: Ronnie Cunningham

VOTE: 6-0

5. Public Comment – None

6. Adjournment -

On a motion by Karen Smith, seconded by Tom Blauvelt, the Board adjourned their meeting at 7:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Cara Becker
Recording Secretary