

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

**Great Barrington Libraries' Board of Trustees**  
**June 9, 2011**  
**5:30 P.M.**  
**Mason Library**

**PRESENT: KARIN BEEBE**  
**TOM BLAUVELT**  
**RONNIE CUNNINGHAM**  
**HOLLY HAMER**  
**HILDA BANKS SHAPIRO – not present**  
**JIM STARK**

**KEVIN O'DONNELL**

**1. Call to Order**

Meeting called to order by Karin Beebe at 5:50 P.M.

Holly Hamer requested that the Board do an agenda review. All agreed to switch agenda item 4 with 5.

A. Attendance – 5/6 present – Hilda Banks Shapiro not present

B. Approval of minutes from May meeting

**MOTION:** Ronnie Cunningham to approve May minutes as amended

**SECOND:** Holly Hamer

**VOTE:** 5-0

**2. Report of Officers, Boards and Standing Committees**

a. President's Report – Karin Beebe thanked Ronnie Cunningham for her help during the hours transition period by going above and beyond as a volunteer. Karin congratulated Tom Blauvelt on being appointed as the Head of the Finance Committee. Karin also thanked Jim Stark for all of his hard work on getting the Ramsdell Library a historic designation. She thanked Holly Hamer for her hard work on the bi-laws and calling the State Ethic Boards to get information about the bi-laws. Karin thanked Hilda for her work on the 250<sup>th</sup> Committee event where the children dressed as literary characters.

b. Library Director's Report – Anne Just

Anne Just said that there are 2 new employees; Jessica Magelaner- assistant director/Mason and Laurie Harrison-children's librarian. Unfortunately, Keri Warfield who started only a short time ago, will be leaving the library.

Anne Just said that she spent a lot of time in May, training volunteers and recruiting more volunteers. There are 18 regularly scheduled volunteers and recently, she left the library in the hands of the volunteers and everything went well.

Jim Stark asked about the status of a volunteer coordinator.  
Anne Just replied that there isn't one yet, although she does have an idea for one.  
Eileen Mooney asked if this would be the job of the assistant director.  
Anne Just replied that she is looking at that option as well.

Anne Just spoke about the Alford agreement, stating that she submitted a letter petitioning CWMARS to place consideration of a waiver of the requirement that towns have certified libraries to receive unimpeded ILL service be put on the next agenda. She said that it will be on their next Thursday agenda.

Anne Just said that all budget lines for materials will be spent and that she has been working with new employee, teaching them about the budget.

Ronnie Cunningham said that some library materials were moved to Searles Bryant during the renovation and many of the classics were lost. She asked that Anne Just use some of the material budget surplus to replace the classics.  
Anne Just replied that there will be no surplus, but she will put it in the budget for next year. She asked Ronnie for a list of suggestions and said that she will fill them in as is possible.

### **3. Special Orders – election of officers**

**MOTION:** Holly Hamer to nominate Karin Beebe as president

**VOTE:** 5-0

**MOTION PASSED**

Karin Beebe accepts

**MOTION:** Holly Hamer to nominate Ronnie Cunningham as secretary

**VOTE:** 4-0-1 Jim Stark abstains

**MOTION PASSED**

Ronnie Cunningham accepts

**MOTION:** Ronnie Cunningham to nominate Tom Blauvelt as treasurer

**VOTE:** 3-1-1 Holly Hamer against and Karin Beebe abstains

**MOTION PASSED**

Tom Blauvelt accepts

Holly Hamer stated that she feels that there is a conflict with being the head of the finance committee and the treasurer of the library trustees.

Tom Blauvelt replied that there is no conflict and that the roles are quite different.

### **4. New Business –**

a. Garden plan presentation – Heather Cupo

Heather Cupo was hired to come up with a garden plan for the back area.

She presented the Trustees with a design plan and a maintenance outline for the garden.

Heather said that she does not recommend a play structure for the area.

She said that a row of butterfly bushes along the property line near the road would be a great idea to section off an area. This would create a reading area and protect it and the children from the street. She also suggested taking the boxwoods out that are on the parking lot side and replanting them along this new border. The use of 18' – 20 " boulders for a seating area is suggested and the use of color in lavenders , rudibeccias, etc... if there is the desire for a garden space. She added that there will be space for a memorial tree next to the pathway. The boulders will be set in playground chips.

Heather Cupo said that there are volunteer items on the maintenance schedule such as weeding, mulch spreading, etc...

Tom Blauvelt asked about the cost estimate for the project.

Heather responded that the boulders and wood chips would cost approximately \$800- \$1000. She said that it would be about \$3500-\$4500 total for everything.

Karin Beebe said that the Board will discuss this at the next meeting and vote on it.

Karen Smith said that she did not agree with last month's minutes when it was said that 'she is in charge of the library cleanup and there has not been much progress.' Karen said that she met with Joe Sokul 2 or 3 times about a scheduled cleanup inside and he was waiting for a list from Anne Just to see what she felt needed to be done. Joe Sokul said that his staff would 'open' the building in the Spring, 'close' it in the Fall and all other maintenance should be done by volunteers.

Holly Hamer asked Anne Just how she felt about Karen Smith, as a trustee or as an individual, going directly to Joe Sokul.

Karin Beebe stated that Karen Smith violated protocol on numerous occasions by going directly to Joe Sokul. She said that only the president of the Board can speak on behalf of the Board.

Holly Hamer asked Karen Smith what she would like to do in the future for the library.

Tom Blauvelt said that he hopes that she will continue to volunteer and be involved in the children's garden.

Karen Smith replied that her whole goal is to complete the outdoor space and the memorial for Jackie Shook. She asked the Board in what capacity they would like her to continue.

Ronnie Cunningham said that it would be helpful if Karen Smith would continue with the outdoor garden.

Karin Beebe said that this project will part of a bigger plan going forward.

Holly Hamer suggested that if Karen Smith would like to see the project completed, then she should become part of the larger committee, who will be working on this plan, under the appointment of the President.

- b. Selectboard presentation – Karin Beebe stated that she will be going to the Board of Selectmen on Monday to speak on behalf of the trustees in regards to By-Law number 5 which is about the change of the power structure. She invited the other Board members to attend.

Alana Chernila asked if there are 'bigger' by-laws that need to be brought to the Board.

Jim Stark asked if they can make changes to the by-laws without going to the State.

The response given was yes. Jim Stark disagreed.

Alana Chernila said that the Board needs to ensure the correct process on these items and to determine if it will be a change to the charter.

Holly Hamer said that the charter is the higher authority and that this came up because the charter is vague. (More discussion about this topic under Article 7 below)

- c. By-laws revision – Holly Hamer- The Board went through each by-law and voted as follows:

Article 1 –

**MOTION:** Holly Hamer to accept article 1 as written

**SECOND:** Tom Blauvelt

**VOTE:** 5-0

Article 2 –

**MOTION:** Holly Hamer to accept article 2 as written

**SECOND:** Tom Blauvelt

**VOTE:** 5-0

Article 3-

**MOTION:** Ronnie Cunningham to accept article 3 as written

**SECOND:** Holly Hamer

**VOTE:** 5-0

Article 4-

**MOTION:** Holly Hamer to accept article 4 as written

**SECOND:** Ronnie Cunningham

**VOTE:** 5-0

Article 5-

**MOTION:** Holly Hamer to accept article 5 as written

**SECOND:** Ronnie Cunningham

**VOTE:** 5-0

Article 6–

**MOTION:** Holly Hamer to accept article 6 as amended

**SECOND:** Ronnie Cunningham

**VOTE:** 5-0

Amendments are:

First paragraph, last line – The Board is responsible for **recommending** approval of the library budget.

Section 4 – Delete first 2 lines. Paragraph shall begin with the sentence “any member who...”

Section 5/Duties of the treasurer/part D – Change the word Chair to President.

Article 7-

**MOTION:** Holly Hamer to accept article 7 as written

**SECOND:** Ronnie Cunningham

**VOTE:** 5-0

Karin Beebe stated that the library was left out of the charter, which hurt them.

Holly Hamer said that they are looking for a compromise. She said that they are looking for changes that will not take the ultimate power away from the Town Manager. She added that the changes would also give more power to the Library Director.

Tom Blauvelt said that he feels that Kevin O'Donnell, not the Board, is the better person to perform a performance appraisal for Anne Just since he is with her often.

Holly Hamer stated that they are asking the Board of Selectmen to instruct Kevin O'Donnell to work with the Library Trustees on all things.

- d. Working conditions Ramsdell – Holly Hamer and Ronnie Cunningham – tabled until the next meeting
- e. Ad Hoc committee for reading room – Karin Beebe – tabled until the next meeting

#### **5. Unfinished Business**

A. Nook implementation – Anne Just

B. Smartboard and movie projector for Ramsdell – Anne Just

C. Hours update- Anne Just

*All of the above agenda items are tabled until the next meeting*

D. Volunteer program update – Anne Just

E. Volunteer coordinator

Both of the above items can be found above under 'The Library Directors Report.'

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ron Blumenthal said that he is impressed with how the Board is discussing things and that it is a big change. He said, "good job."

- 6. Adjournment** - On a motion by Holly Hamer, seconded by Tom Blauvelt, the Board adjourned their meeting at 7:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Cara Becker

Recording Secretary