

ABBOTT LIBRARY TRUSTEES
Board Meeting Minutes
August 21, 2007, 6:00 PM

Abbott Library Main Floor

Present: Peter Urbach, Chair; John Mapley, Treasurer; John Walden, Library Director; Rhonda Gurney, Secretary Pro Tem; Sally Southard; Betty Tatlock, Alternate; Paul Pratt, Alternate

Alternate present: Mary Epreman

Absent: Steve Fair, Lisa Bozogan

Visitors: John Wilson; Jean Wilson; Anne Nilsen; Betsy Katz; Jerry Karr

1. **Approval of Minutes:** July 16, 2007 – unanimously approved
July 25, 2007 – unanimously approved

2. **Chairman's Report: Peter Urbach**

Notice of the New Hampshire Library Trustees Association list of 2007 Fall Workshops was brought to the trustee's attention, and noted that all except Rhonda and Faith have attended prior workshops. This notice from the NHLTA is appended to these minutes.

Short comment given on the Town's approval of John Walden's raise.

3. **Director's Report;**

John reported that 1500 new library cards were issued. Peter asked if we could have information as to how many are new library cards to old patrons versus new library cards to new patrons.

Paul Pratt asked John if he had seen a Union Leader article reporting that 3 libraries around the state have the opportunity to apply for a \$75,000 gift for increase in usage (patrons?). John stated that he would look into it.

John stated that he is enjoying the new capabilities of the new computer system and all that he is learning with it. He is hoping to do a report for "seasonal" patron report.

Update on the room rearrangement. Four new computers coming.

5. **Treasurer's Report:**

John Mapley submitted his report. No comments.

Campaign Summary attached to these minutes.

Peter submitted a resolution authorizing the Chairman to retain a CPA firm to clear up a discrepancy of \$7,713.27. Peter also mentioned that he, John M. and possibly Steve F. would meet with Susan Nooney, of the firm Nooney & Carpenter in New London, about doing the job. Sally and Paul asked if we could wait a month for a better idea of what this would cost. Peter made the motion that we approve not more than \$2,500 to be expended to clear this matter. The motion was unanimously approved. Resolution attached to minutes.

6. **Building Planning:**

Rhonda asked everyone if they had received the last minutes via e-mail and they had. She spoke of the Building Committee meeting in which sites had been eliminated from the preliminary list. Refer to BC minutes of August 8, 2007.

Sally made remarks regarding the elimination of Ski Tow Hill from the potential site list say that the fact that it is designated as town forest should not be an issue. She also made points on the history of Ski Tow Hill and the votes regarding the site. Sally made a motion to have Ski Tow Hill put back on the BC's site list and then withdrew when Paul Pratt reworded the motion after discussion.

Paul made the following motion which was seconded by John Mapley and then voted on by the trustees (5 votes for, 1 against, 1 abstention):

It is the sense of this meeting that the Building Committee reconsider it's decision to remove Ski Tow Hill from the list of possible sites for the proposed new library building.

Peter asked John W and Rhonda to make sure the e-mails for the BC were copied onto disc for public record.

7. **Guest speaker:**

Betsy Katz discussed fundraising for the library. She gave John W. information on how a town library near Hartford, CT. worked their financing. John will make copies to share and discuss at our next meeting. Peter asked Betsy if she would come discuss this topic further at the next meeting. Betsy also told the trustees that generally at public meetings the guests are given place early in the agenda, and requested that the trustees consider this for future guests.

8. **Other**

Trustees welcome Faith Webb-Rainey to the Board.

Rhonda mentioned that the Trustee By-Laws need to be reviewed by the date of December 31, 2007. Peter asked Paul and Rhonda to look into this and report back to the trustees at the October meeting.

Sally made comments about the trustees and their efforts reaching out to the community. Comments attached to these minutes.

Paul pointed out that he knew of four individuals who had requested absentee ballots for the March vote and did not receive them. He advised the individuals to write to the town their comments on the matter.

Betty Tatlock asked whose responsibility is it for the upkeep of the outside maintenance of the Abbott Library building. John W. will look into it.

Rhonda commented that if anyone, or if the trustee's knew of anyone, who would like to be included in the regular e-mails from the Building Committee to forward her their e-mail address.

Meeting adjourned at 8pm

Next trustee meeting will be held Tuesday, September 18th, 6pm upstairs at the Abbott Library.