

Notes from a joint meeting of the Jones Library Trustees and the Amherst Select Board in the Town Room, Town Hall on October 29, 2007 starting at 8:15 p.m.

Present: Jones Library Trustees Ann Grose, Molly Turner, Anita Page, Pat Holland, Kathy Wang. All Select Board members, Naomi Ossar, Chris Hoffmann, Louis Greenbaum, Larry Shaffer (Town Manager), Bonnie Isman (Jones Library Director), press, and the public.

Gerry Weiss, Chair of the Select Board, called the meeting to order and asked the members of the Boards to introduce themselves. He then asked the candidates to introduce themselves and make a statement if they wished.

In brief:

Naomi Ossar spoke about her experience working in various libraries in different states, and her active involvement with cultural exchange programs. She moved to Amherst in 2006 and has been attending meetings of the Jones Library Trustees.

Chris Hoffmann moved to Amherst in 1988 and is active in various Town committees and the Friends of the Jones Library System. He would like to see the Town Libraries get more involved with electronic media.

Louis Greenbaum's children and grandchildren grew up using the Jones Library. He is a member of two other Town committees, and he served on the University Library Committee for six years during a 30 year career as a professor of history at the University of Massachusetts.

A question and answer period followed. Each member of the Library Trustees and the Select Board asked a question of the three candidates, ranging from how to cooperate with the academic libraries in Amherst to how to triple the endowment. Kathy Wang ended the questioning by outlining two major roles and responsibilities of a Library Trustee and posed the critical question, "Are you up to the task of asking for money for the Library?" All candidates answered yes.

Before the vote, Molly Turner thanked all the candidates and said there was a wealth of people to choose from. Each Trustee and Select Board member then announced their votes individually. The first round of voting was Hoffmann 4, Ossar 1, Greenbaum 5. Because the bylaws call for a majority vote, Mr. Weiss changed his vote from Ossar to Greenbaum who then had six votes and won the election.

The Trustees' portion of the meeting closed at 9:40 p.m. Notes taken by Bonnie Isman and transcribed by Tina Swift.