

Minutes of the Board of Trustees
Annual Meeting

The Town of Amherst and the Jones Library, Inc.
May 14, 2007, Jones Library's Career Center

Present: Trustee Wang, Trustee Holland, Trustee Grose, Trustee Page, Trustee Turner, Trustee Burack. Two members of the public, two staff members.

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m..

Correction to last Minutes: Ms. Burack was absent due to lack of transportation, not due to pain.

Motion: To approve the Minutes as amended for the meeting of April 6, 2007. Motion made by Ms. Grose, 2nd by Ms. Holland. Vote: Unanimous.

President's Report: Welcome to Nonny Burack, newly elected Trustee. Formulation of a slate and committee assignments followed.

Slate of Officers:

President	Kathy Wang Fundraising Committee, Town Personnel Board
Vice Pres.	Anita Page, CPC, Fundraising Committee
Treasurer	Pat Holland, Joint Capital Planning Committee (JCPC), Budget Coordinating Group, Fundraising
Asst. Treasurer	Molly Turner, JCPC, Budget Coordinating Group
Clerk	Ann Grose, 250 th Amherst Anniversary Committee
Liaison to Friends:	Nonny Burack; Burnett Gallery Rep: If needed, Ms. Burack volunteered to attend the Burnett Gallery Committee meetings.

Motion: To request a panoply of reports monthly to go to the Treasurer. Motion made by Ms. Burack, Second by Ms. Holland. Motion withdrawn.
The Treasurer will meet with Office staff to determine what monthly reports are needed.

Motion: To accept the above officers' slate. Motion made by Ms. Page, Second by Ms. Wang. Vote: Unanimous.

Director's Report. Investments: Ms. Isman brought a simplified investment chart, showing investments through April. The investments have climbed to over \$9 Million. Last year, the investments seemed to peak in April and then fall. This chart is just a snapshot, not necessarily a prediction of interest to come. Sidewalk design plan: There will not be any easement, trees will be removed from the front of the Library and street lights will be installed. Three new trees will be planted "somewhere." There is a question of the placement of benches.

The Trustees decided to convey the Trustees' Concerns to the Town to reconsider tree removal, the position of benches, putting the walkway next to road, and concerns about drainage.

Motion: To send a letter to the Select Board, Planning Board, and Town Engineering Department stating that the Board of Trustees unanimously want to keep the trees in front of the Jones Library. We would like to reconsider the location of the sidewalk, benches, and street lights which should be the most environmentally sound in conserving energy. Motion made by Ms.Grose, Second by Ms. Burack.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: To send a unanimous letter advocating the retention of the trees in front of the Jones Library to the Tree Warden's hearing and to the Shade Tree Committee on May 21st. Motion made by Ms. Burack, Second by Ms.Wang. Vote: Unanimous

The Amherst Brewing Company has asked to run a Comcast line which will border the Library's driveway. There are many questions about the physical disruption of Library property. Will Comcast pay for damage or a lease for access? Ms. Isman will query Kris Pacunas (Head of the Town's Information Technology Department) to ascertain the exact path of digging. Ms. Isman favored denying any access to Library property.

Replacement of the roof around the skylight: A substitution of material had been recommended by the contractor. A Firestone representative visited to ascertain the proper rubber membrane which would support foot traffic (needed to clean drains). Ms. Isman Publicly thanked Ron Bohonowitz, Town building supervisor. It was great to have his support and assistance.

Ms. Isman reported on the end of year budget, saying that summer closings will begin on June 17th (first Sun. closing). 8:30 p.m. closings start on June 12. Sundays will reopen on Sept. 9th.

The Public Library Incentive Grant has been reauthorized by both the House and Senate and there is \$200,000 (for the whole state) in funding in it. There has been a small increase to state aid to libraries (Ellen Story, co-sponsor, in the House version of the state budget).

Unfinished Business:

The 1% budget as voted by the Trustees still stands. The branch libraries will close one day a week, due to the failure of the override. The Library received \$4,300.00 from an anonymous donor, specifically for the ESL program. This eliminates the ESL summer layoff for the ESL coordinator.

Some members of the School Committee feel that the 3% increase voted by the Regional School Committee should not be accepted by Town Meeting. All the other Town Departments have been constrained to keep a 1% budget increase. The Trustees discussed this issue. The Finance Committee has stated that they would take \$238,000

from the reserve fund, if it was the only such use. This would represent a change in the rules for budget development.

Ms. Wang suggested bringing the message to the Four Boards Meeting tonight that the Library wishes to keep the fine money, since it was never part of the Town's budgets before. Ms. Isman told the Board that the Finance Committee will only agree to any budget increases if the increases are contingent on an override. Ms. Wang wants to ask Town Meeting for a revolving fund in order to keep the late fines, remembering that Town Meeting has asked the Library to collect more fines. Ms. Turner feels pressured by the Finance Committee to accept their Amherst Plan (for the 3 year override) and budget rules changes. She stated that the Library should remain independent and not take a stand on any future possible overrides. Four members of the Board and Ms. Isman will attend the Four Boards meeting tonight. They will bring the message that the Library needs to retain the \$19,000 collected in fines. Ms. Isman pointed out that the budget motion at Town Meeting for the Library should include the \$19,000 in fines, not contingent on an override. Ms. Turner asked Ms. Isman to talk to other libraries who have revolving funds.

The Library Planned Giving brochure is ready and available. Ms. Isman, Ms. Burack, and other Trustees will meet with the Friends of the Library on June 4th to involve them in planned giving possibilities.

250th Committee meets every month and it is going well. (Reported by Ms. Grose)

CPC (Reported by Ms. Page) is developing a Town-wide survey which should go out around June 1.

The Personnel Board will meet on May 29. (Reported by Ms. Wang)

The Friends of the Library voted money for the book/author events. (Reported by Ms. Isman)

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Tina Swift for Ann Grose, Clerk