

Minutes of the Board of Trustees

The Town of Amherst and the Jones Library, Inc.

June 10, 2008

Jones Library's Trustees' Room

Present: Trustee Wang, Trustee Turner, Trustee Holland, Trustee Grose, Trustee Hoffman, Trustee Greenbaum. Also Present: Library Director Bonnie Isman; Tina Swift, Staff, Scott Merzbach (Daily Hampshire Gazette), and the General Public (Naomi Ossar).

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Motion: To approve the minutes of May 13, 2008. Motion by: Ann Grose. Second by: Kathy Wang . Vote: Unanimous.

President's Report. Nothing to report.

Mr. Greenbaum: He was heartened by the actions of Town Meeting. He found that nobody disputes the centrality and mission of the Jones Library. He said much of Town Meeting seemed to be at odds with the Finance Committee and many had hoped to restore the money which had been cut from the Jones Library's budget. He described the feeling of Town meeting as very disposed toward the Jones Library's benefit.

Ms. Wang did not send out the thank you to Town Meeting supporters who wanted to restore money to the Jones' budget, but she will do so.

Mr. Hoffman said he had known the Friends would support the Library, so he had not been keen to restore \$11,000 at the last minute on the floor of Town Meeting. He feels restoring money to the budget is more of a long term process. And, he feels the Friends can contribute a lot of money to the Jones. Ms. Turner pointed out that the Friends do not want to support operating expenses. She feels the Town needs to support the Library and not rely on private donations for the Library's budget. Mr. Greenbaum noted that donations and the endowment are not growing in the current economic climate.

Treasurer's Report: The current balance of the invested funds as of June 3rd is: \$8,761,459.58. This figure is about \$200,000 less than as last reported.

Director's Report. Challenge grant fundraising has reached its target. So, we will request the matching funds from the Community Foundation. The Friends generously made a \$2,000 contribution. We received a splendid grant of \$5,000 from the Xeric Foundation. We have ended the year with a boom! We do expect a contribution from Dave's Soda and Pet Food City. They have provided coupons to benefit the Library.

Ms. Isman noted the calendar of Library holiday closings, followed by a reminder of the current summer hours.

Ms. Isman recommended not closing on Monday afternoons. The North Amherst Library believes it has private funding (mainly from the Harp) to remain open on Thursdays, but that proposal is not firm yet.

See: 2009 Operating Budget (yellow sheet) Update (6/10/08 Sources).

Ms. Wang suggested “restocking” an emergency fund meant for roof repairs using the FY09 updated budget. The North Amherst Library will be open on Thursday, the Jones open on Monday afternoons, no changes for the summer at the South Amherst Library.

Unfinished Business. Election. Annual Meeting Continuation.

President	Molly Turner, Joint Capital Planning Committee, Director’s Review
Vice President	Kathy Wang, Fundraising, Personnel Committee
Treasurer	Pat Holland, BCG, JCPC
Clerk	Ann Grose, 250 th Committee, Director’s Review
Asst. Treasurer	Chris Hoffman, BCG, Friends
Trustee at Large	Louis Greenbaum, Burnett Gallery, Fundraising Committee

New Business. The professional staff has recommended that the Library should have the same regulation as schools and not allow smoking on the grounds of the Library.

Motion: No smoking on the grounds of the Town Libraries. Motion by Ann Grose, 2nd by Kathy Wang. **Vote:** Unanimous.

Should a Trustee be a liaison to the Amherst Historical Society? There were no Trustee volunteers. Tevis Kimball, Curator, is ex officio on the board of the History Museum.

Master Plan update by Molly Turner. This was an expensive process, costing upwards of \$300,000.00, but the public involvement was and has been valuable. Ms. Turner suggested reading the Master Plan web site for more information. She noted that preservation rated higher than economic development. Ms. Isman pointed out that large numbers of people voted for more Library offerings, but that sentiment did not appear in the Master Plan document. Ms. Turner would like to see more tax dollars put into the Library budget by pointing out the public sentiment in the Master Plan questionnaire.

Committee Reports.

JCPC, didn’t meet.

BCG is waiting for Community Choices group to meet.

(No action is required from the Trustees.) Ms. Isman presented a draft report of five scenarios for funding which will be presented to the Community Choices group. See: Community Choices for the Amherst Town Libraries, 2010—2014.

Fundraising Committee. Met today. The Director will send out business solicitation letter this summer, annual fundraising in the Fall.

Personnel Committee. No meeting.

250th History subcommittee met yesterday. The Robert Frost Room will be dedicated on Oct. 21, 2009 and Bill Pritchard will speak then. \$650 is needed for the plaque designating the Robert Frost room as a National Literary Landmark. There are many other activities planned by the 250th Committee.

Friends. The Friends voted money for these programs: Monday challenge, Zoo on the Go, Sing with your Baby, Chess Club, field trip to go with Fathers and Daughters book discussion (to the Tenement Museum in NYC), four local authors (a series), rare wildlife program in the Fall with an author from Connecticut, yummy holiday treats with Louise Amyrot, Nutritionist, make giclee prints from the donated Susan Pecora watercolor. Beds for Books gave the Library \$7500 over this past fiscal year. One guest gave a \$500 donation on top of their Beds for Books room fees.

Director's Review Committee. Ann Grose needs to work more on the surveys.

A non profit group (ACT, a division of Dial/Self) will rent the Harlan Fiske Stone office for \$500/month.

Next Trustees' Meeting: (cancel July 8th) will be on July 25, Friday at 2:00 p.m. in the Trustees' Room. Other meetings: September 11, Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Trustees' Room, and October 14, Tuesday, at 7 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Grose, Clerk
Tina Swift, Transcriptionist