

**[The corrections inserted here are from Patricia Holland and were voted as
accepted by the Board of Trustees.]**
Minutes of the Board of Trustees

The Town of Amherst and the Jones Library, Inc.
July 17, 2007
Jones Library's Trustees' Room

Present: Trustee Wang, Trustee Holland, Trustee Grose, Trustee Page, Trustee Turner,
Trustee Burack.

Also Present: Library Director Bonnie Isman; Sondra Radosh, Children's Librarian; Tina
Swift, Staff; Maggie Spiegel, Branch Librarian; Beth Girshman (at 10:40 a.m.), Adult
Services Librarian; Member of the Public

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

Motion: To approve the previous minutes (June 12, 2007). Motion by: Ann Grose
Second by: Nonny Burack Vote: Unanimous

Ms. Wang gave a recap of the Town Meeting which considered the Library budget. At
the last minute, the Select Board reconsidered their original vote, saying that there was no
way to secure the \$19,000 to cover the Library's gap. The Finance Committee's budget
for the Library passed, which means that \$19,000 *would be needed* for FY08. (*See
below for a revision of this amount.*)

Ms. Wang publicly thanked Jim Oldham who presented a motion to pass the Library
Trustees' budget. This motion did fail, but the support is greatly appreciated.

July 10th Shade Tree Committee Hearing: Molly and Nonny attended. Molly said the
hearing discussed both North Pleasant Street and Amity Street. There were a number of
protestors against cutting the trees. Ms. Turner spoke on behalf of the Jones Library's
Trustees. She credited Vince O'Connor with great suggestions for [moving the trees]
*planting new trees on the Library lawn but retaining the sidewalk trees until they became
hazardous*. There will be a hearing before the Select Board deciding whether to cut the
trees (in front of the Library) down (rather than move them).

Ms. Burack has talked with Alan Snow (Tree Warden) about the North Amherst
Library's beech tree. Mr. Snow thinks the roots have begun to die due to the pavement's
prohibiting nourishment. A five year solution might be to dig up the library's lawn and
insert deep compost to feed the tree. Ms. Spiegel said half of the tree is very vibrant and
healthy and she wants them to take care of it.

Motion: The Jones Library Trustees urge the Town to preserve the beech tree in front of the North Amherst Library for as long as possible. Motion by: Pat Holland. Second by: Molly Turner. Vote: Unanimous.

Ms. Wang read an interesting article describing the University of Massachusetts' Library's Procrastination Station which brings in \$500,000/year in revenue selling coffee and pastries. She felt this is good information for a future discussion.

Treasurer's Report. See: July 15, 2007 report (colored chart, attached). This shows the invested funds are rising, with the current total of \$9,042,944.49. Ms. Holland quoted a summary from Mr. Bridegam which shows that the stock index is doing considerably better, although still 2% below the benchmark. The bonds are slightly above the benchmark.

Director's Report. We do not have FY07 expenses yet. This is the first time the Town Accountant has frozen part of the Library's budget. Sonia Aldrich did not allow Ms. Isman to fully spend the Library budget.

Donors' Report (attached) includes Governor Patrick Deval/Tim Murray Inaugural Committee's donation of \$2,500. Channel 22 interviewed Beth Girshman about this and she brought an ESL tutor-student pair to the interview. Ms. Girshman spoke, saying the current year's plan for ESL fundraising is underway. She has met with interested tutors and Ms. Holland will be attending the future ESL fundraising meetings. Ms. Girshman has revised a local fundraising letter which will be sent to local businesses that employ former ESL students. She listed businesses which will receive the mailing. The office staff will mail this letter in August. There will be a benefit concert provided by Layah Jane on October 27, 2007 at Amherst College. Amherst College has donated the Front Room at the Campus Center for the concert.

Motion: To reserve \$55,000 in the building checking account and invest any amounts above this in a Vanguard long term investment account. Motion by Ms. Page. Second by Ms. Wang. Vote: Unanimous.

Maggie Spiegel told the Trustees that the North Amherst Library has received very generous donations of over \$2,230 and her patrons want to re-open the library for one more day. To re-open on Thursdays for September through June, she needs an additional \$800. Ms. Spiegel asked the Board's approval for doing more fundraising to retain her branch's hours. Ms. Wang supports the sign requesting donations to keep branch hours, but she does not want the perception that the branches need to raise their own money. Ms. Isman noted that the ESL program has been told that they need to raise funds and this would not be a new concept for the branches. *Ms. Turner requested an accounting of all money raised for branch hours.*

Motion: The North Amherst Library will reopen on Thursdays in September funded with donated money. Motion by Ann Grose. Second by Anita Page. Vote: Unanimous

The total FY08 budget is \$2,098,749. *Ms. Isman reported that the line for town salaries will rise only 1% rather than the planned 2% so the \$19,000 budget shortfall is reduced from \$19,000 to \$8,000. She [Ms. Isman] had to further reduce the hourly help line, but it's not clear that we can keep the Jones Library open with such a low level of hourly staffers. The Library may need to reduce hours.*

Ms. Burack stated that she is uncomfortable because the Board told Town Meeting that the Library would cut hours if they did not retain \$19,000 in fines. She noted that the Library is finding ways to stay open.

The Town is trying to transition from self insurance to GIC by the year 2010.

Motion: To accept Ms. Isman's recommendations for the Jones Library's budget figure of \$2,098,749 for FY08. Motion by Anita Page, second by Nonny Burack.

Vote: Unanimous.

Postpone: Discussion of revolving funds, why the budget vote failed at Town Meeting, and new business.

Pat Holland: The Budget Coordinating Group (BCG) has met several times. Their newest project: The whole budget schedule should be started earlier for all Town Departments. A tentative budget should be submitted much earlier than usual. The BCG is talking about hiring a budget planning consultant.

The Joint Capital Planning Committee (JCPC) did not meet. The Fundraising Committee has not met. It will meet Aug. 28th.

Personnel Board: Approved reclassifications for professional staff.

The 250th Committee has met with the History subcommittee. There will be lectures held at the Library, and the History Museum will publish those lectures in a book.

Amherst Planning Together is analyzing the random survey. The Master Plan should be done by the end of September and presented to Town Meeting.

Burnett Gallery: No trustee attendance

Friends of the Jones Library System: No meeting in July

Next Jones Library Trustees' meeting: Thursday, Sept. 6 at 7 p.m. in the Trustees' Room

Next tentative meeting dates:

Thursday, Sept. 20 at 7 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 4, 7 p.m. (Vanguard rep will attend)

Thursday, Nov. 1, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 29, 7 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Grose, Clerk

Tina Swift, Transcriptionist