

Gardiner Public Library
Board of Trustees meeting,
September 12 at 7pm
MINUTES

Welcome/USA PATRIOT Act

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by Helen Stevens, president. The following people were in attendance: Anne Davis, Director, Jill Todd (Randolph), Gay Grant (Gardiner), Tom Abbott (West Gardiner), Pat Struble, Secretary (Pittston), and Joan Thomas (Litchfield). John Shaw (Gardiner) was absent.

Anne reported that there were no requests for patron records to date. She updated the Board on current actions regarding the Act. There is some action pending in both the Senate and the House. With recent events, it appears that little may be changed in Section 215. The American Library Association is hoping that an open court will issue the subpoena.

Approval of minutes from 5-2-05

The minutes of 5-2-05 were unanimously accepted by all attending members.

Election of Officers

Joan Thomas (Litchfield) nominated Helen Stevens (Gardiner) as President of the Board. Tom Abbott (West Gardiner) seconded the nomination. Helen was elected unanimously.

Joan Thomas (Litchfield) nominated Pat Struble (Pittston) as Secretary of the Board. Tom Abbott (West Gardiner) seconded the nomination and Pat was elected unanimously.

Discussion of FY06 Budget

Anne reported that the current budget is on course and that the 2 salary lines are the Board's best indicator of this fact.

Gay Grant asked Anne about the heating oil prices. Anne reported that the price is locked in for this year. She is also on a task force for researching and maintaining energy costs. Along with heating prices, electricity may also increase. She is researching more efficient bulbs for lighting as well as cutting our energy costs. It will not impact town budgets this year as the budget was already approved by the Board.

Staff news

Anne informed the Board that Ginni's position is paid in part from a grant managed by the Boys and Girls Club. This grant is now endangered. Ginni is the Young Adult Librarian both at the Club and in the library. The grant amount to the library is \$10,400 with \$4,000 used for materials. That money is currently in FY06 budget.

If we lose the grant, Anne is concerned about the library collection at the Club. Anne is looking into the option of corporate sponsorship for the position. She has already asked Council if she can pursue this option and they were encouraging. If subtle, it could be a good way for a business to advertise. Gay suggested that Anne split the request into one for salary and one for collection development.

Discussion ensued about the wireless computer lab at the B&G Club. There are 10 wireless laptops available for the school and the library to use. Tom Abbott suggested that it would be appropriate to show the contributing towns how the B&G Club library is being used. Pat Struble suggested a newspaper article.

Ginni Nichols is taking an 8 week catalog class at the Maine State Library. It is free training and offered as part of the MINERVA consortium.

On October 1st, Anne will take on the position of Interim Director of the Planning and Development Department for the City. She plans on working 2 days a week at City Hall. The position should last about 2 months.

Anne Davis and Tom Abbott informed the Board that they are on the search committee for a CEO for Maine Infonet. This is the information network for all Maine libraries. Anne will represent public libraries on the committee and Tom will represent academic libraries. The CEO will be in charge of a large non-profit organization responsible for managing information practices and standards throughout the state.

The MLA Conference is scheduled for 10/23-10/25. All trustees are welcome to attend the meeting at the Augusta Civic Center.

Gardiner Library Association news

A new fundraising committee has been formed. The plans are to have a gala event during the next year. They hope to kick-off a fundraising campaign to raise \$300,000 to finish the renovations to the Children's Room. They will be looking for corporate sponsorship. Gay suggested looking for a professional fundraiser and Anne agreed that the GLA could benefit from a professional.

The renovation plans are moving along. The stained-glass window will be removed for restoration in October. We should have it back by June, 2006. New Century Community Grant money will be used to repair the windows in the Children's Room. Anne is researching whether it is best to replace or restore the windows. The GLA will need Historic Preservation Commission approval for window replacement.

The GLA Garden Committee is no longer a viable committee. They do have plans for a children's garden and Anne has some quotes for the work. She plans on hiring a local landscaper for next summer's maintenance of the garden.

New business

a) DVD/CD inserts

A patron lost a DVD insert. The staff in the Children's Room attaches the barcode to the insert. When the patron received a fine for not returning the insert, he lodged a complaint with Anne. She has asked the Board for a procedural clarification. Should we ignore that an insert is missing? Should we set a maximum fine or should we charge a replacement cost to buy a new DVD? The Board of Trustees unanimously voted that the DVD/CD inserts are the complete product and the library should charge a replacement fee for the item.

b) Teen cards

Some of the staff has noticed that there are some teenagers trying to get a library card who cannot convince their parent or guardian to come to the library and sign the application. Anne asked the Board if they would allow limited usage cards to be issued to these particular teenagers. The limits would include a maximum check-out of 3 items and no "R" rated movies. The Board approved the proposal pending review of the City Solicitor.

c) Renewing videos/DVD's

Anne requested that the Board approve the renewal of these items. The approval was unanimous from the Board.

d) Reading Rumpus

This is an event being held in downtown Gardiner. The GPL will offer space for the event.

e) Discovery Research grant

The GPL is a participant in a Discovery Research Grant sponsored by the Maine Humanities Council. The organizers hope to develop a resource guide for the arts in the Central Kennebec Valley area. The library will be hosting a public meeting in November.

f) New Century Community Grant Bond

This bond issue will be on the November ballot. GPL has benefited by this program in the past and hopes for grants in the future.

Old business

The current director of the Hubbard Free Library has resigned. Anne asked the Board to think about what we should do about Farmingdale.

Anne informed the Board she believes that our circulation statistics have increased dramatically since joining MINERVA. She hopes to have these figures at November's Board meeting.

Tom Abbott and Anne Davis met with the person from West Gardiner who circulated a negative letter about the library at the last town meeting. Both Anne and Tom feel that the problem may be resolved.

Tom informed the Board that the City Council of Augusta will sign a proclamation in support of keeping the University of Maine, Augusta as a separate entity. The Board discussed this issue. Tom invited the Board to a Public Forum being held in the Jewett Hall Auditorium. Tom also invited the Board to an open house hosted by Judy Abbott at her new Ameriprise Financial, Inc offices in downtown Gardiner.

Next meeting/Adjourn

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 7, 2005 at 7pm in the library. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Minutes,
Pat Struble, Secretary

Minutes transcribed by,
Anne Davis
Library Director