

Great Barrington Board of Library Trustees

April 15, 2021 5:30pm Meeting via Zoom only

I. CALL TO ORDER: P. HOLLENBECK CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 5:44pm.

A. Roll Call via Zoom: Patrick Hollenbeck: here Kathleen Plungis: here

Jane Stanhope: here Lauren Clark: here There is a quorum.

Present: Amanda DeGiorgis, Director Audience: -1-

Absent: Margaret Heilbrun and Chris Tucci

B. APPROVAL OF MARCH MINUTES: JS: MOTION TO APPROVE THE MARCH MINUTES. KP: 2nd. NO DISCUSSION.

Roll Call via Zoom: P. Hollenbeck: Yes K. Plungis: Yes

J. Stanhope: Yes Lauren Clark: Yes MH: Absent CT: Absent

Vote: 4 – 0 Motion Passes.

C. Friends Report: A. DeGiorgis reported for the Friends: They have begun the outdoor book giveaways, using rolling carts and fair weather days in the front of Mason Library. The books are very popular and there has been an increase in monetary donations.

D. Director's Report: A. DeGiorgis (See attached Report) She noted that there has been an increase in book, etc. pick-ups from the libraries. Ramsdell is still curbside only, Mason does have indoor item pick-up as well as curbside. Curbside is very popular.

The second half of the Library State Aid has been awarded. The libraries will receive \$6,957.08.

The Director will soon be posting 1 full time and 4 part time positions.

There was a discussion regarding the reopening of the libraries for browsing. The Director stated that it is at the discretion of the Town Manager. That the Director will need to have personnel in place to handle such a decision.

PH noted that a new WiFi lawn sign is needed at Ramsdell. ADeG will tend to it.

PH had heard from a number of Housatonic residents questioning why there aren't more open hours-curbside pick-up at Ramsdell. ADeG replied that a lack of staff is the issue.

ADeG reported that the Library's virtual programs have been very successful.

PH asked about the popularity of the online newspapers. ADeG stated that the interest in the Washington Post has dropped, that the New York Times subscription continues to be strong, that the Wall street Journal has been so-so.

II. Treasurer's Report: (See attached report) KP reported on both the February and March financials. All are in order.

Buildings & Grounds: KP reported that after emailing both Sean VanDeusen and Mark Pruhenski she did hear back from them. That Mr. Pruhenski apologized for not informing the Board that he had told Sean to proceed with the Ramsdell handicap ramp. That the process had been stalled for over a year and pre-dated Covid. He stated that he would be happy to participate in an upcoming meeting. We would like him to do so.

The DPW supervisor responded that he would be soliciting bids for a new furnace at Ramsdell. (The director informed us that interested bidders were at Ramsdell on April 12, 2021). Sean also stated that the new furnace would be replacing the old one so that the library would continue to be operational during the winter. That the handicap ramp would enable people with disabilities getting into the building, that the ramp would also ease getting children in strollers into the building.

Further discussion on these issues ensued.

- I. Citizen Speak: Michelle Loubert addressed the Board. She suggested that the Trustees working with the Housatonic Improvement Committee would benefit Housatonic. She noted that the Housatonic Improvement Committee was meeting at 6:30pm. PH stated that he would Zoom attend at the end of our meeting. PH noted that he has been invited in the past to join those meetings and he Zoom attended two during the winter.

IV: Board Speak: KP stated that she will be running for re-election as a Write-in candidate.

PH thanked Amanda for all her work and effort during the past Covid year.

V. Adjourn: KP: MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 6:22pm. JS 2nd. NO DISCUSSION.

Roll Call via Zoom: P. Hollenbeck: Yes K. Plungis: Yes

J. Stanhope: Yes Lauren Clark: Yes MH: Absent CT: Absent

Vote: 4 – 0 Motion Passes.

Kathleen Plungis - Secretary & Trustee

NEXT TRUSTEE MEETING IS MAY 13, 2021

March Library Life April 8, 2021

Stats from February:

Libby/OverDrive: 1,472

Mason Circulation (everything): 3,829

Ramsdell Circulation (everything): 476

Mason had 718 curbside pick-up appointments

Ramsdell had an average of 40 curbside pick-ups a week

Stats from March:

Libby/OverDrive: 1,507

Mason Circulation (everything): 4,484

Ramsdell Circulation (everything): 619

Mason had 479 curbside pick-up appointments and 414 in person visitors

Ramsdell averaged 42 curbside pick-ups a week

- It's National Library Week! Thank a librarian today ☺
- **Budget FY2022:** Library budget emerged from budget meetings and Public Hearing fully intact. Town Meeting will be June 7.
- **State Aid:** I received notice that we will shortly be getting our second half of State Aid. The second half will be \$6,957.08
- **Operations:**
 - Pivoted to providing in-library pick-up of items mid-March. We continued curbside at Mason although more people are coming inside to pick items up.
 - Ramsdell remained at curbside but we hope to change that soon.
 - Have been given go ahead to post vacant positions (there are a total of 5: 4 PT and 1 FT). I am hoping to start this process next week.
 - Looking to open Mason to upstairs browsing in the next few weeks. Still waiting for Plexi-Glass for curved desk in Children's Room (needed for browsing there).
 - Ramsdell will likely open for in-library pick-up to start until the weather is reliably warmer. Then we hope to open doors and invest in more fans to provide some browsing at Ramsdell.
 - Adding days/hours is going to take time as we add on the staff we need. I am not sure yet when we will return to pre-COVID days/hours.

- **Virtual Programming:**

- Adult Virtual programming has been HUGE. Talya had two solid months of great programming in February and March. We had attendance ranging from 30-100 people per event. We even had to run the Scottish Garden one a second time due to the group being too large.
- There are more events coming up in April and May and then we will be putting the virtual programming on hiatus through the summer months.
- Virtual programming is going to remain a key part of our programming. It has allowed us greater flexibility with our offerings and has broadened our audience as well.

- **Berkshire Busk:** Town sponsored summer event Fridays and Saturdays in July and August will be using Mason's lawn/steps as a performance space.
- **Ramsdell Donation:** We received \$150 in honor of Tom Tringali. The donors have requested the money be spent on Young Adult books and biographies. Talya and I are working on this.

as of March 31, 2021

Account	Debit	Credit	Balance
Accounts Payable			
Accounts Receivable			
Office Supplies			

Account	Date	Debit	Credit	Balance
Accounts Payable	3/31/2021	\$1,040		\$1,040
Accounts Receivable	3/31/2021		\$1,040	\$1,040
Office Supplies	3/31/2021	\$1,040		\$1,040

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** Joint Print: Woburn, Magazines
 ** Joint Nonprint: CatEx, est/We Dewey Catalog, Niche, NB Video
 and rewire computer help program coming later in FY21