

JAN 27 2022 AM 11:38

DECEMBER MINUTES

Great Barrington Libraries Board of Trustees December 9, 2021
5:30 pm Meeting via Zoom only

I. Call to Order at 5:31 pm.

A. Roll Call via Zoom: P. Hollenbeck, K. Plungis, L. Clark, J. Stanhope, M. Heilbrun, and C. Tucci: All Present. The Library Director present.
Audience: 10

B. Motion Made to Approve the October Minutes. 2nd. No discussion.
Roll call via Zoom: P. Hollenbeck: Yes K. Plungis: Yes L. Clark: Yes
J. Stanhope: Yes M. Heilbrun, Abstain, not at the October meeting
C. Tucci: Abstain, not at the October meeting.
Vote: 4 – 0 Motion Passes.

C. Motion to Approve the November Minutes. 2nd. No discussion.
Roll call via Zoom: P. Hollenbeck: Yes K. Plungis: Yes L. Clark: Yes
M. Heilbrun: Yes
J. Stanhope: Abstain, not at the November meeting.
C. Tucci, Abstain, not at the November meeting.
Vote: 4 – 0 Motion Passes.

D. Friends Report: There is a book sale going on in the main lobby at Mason Library and a free children's book give away down in the Community Room, the children's book give away thanks to a generous donation by Lee Bank. Both run till the end of December.

E. Director's Report: Presented by A. DeGeorgis (See attached report which includes the proposed budget)
The self check out is up and running. The Libraries have received the 1st payout of State Aid, \$6,393.25 and the libraries have been rectified.
Mason Library will be participating in the GB Holiday Stroll, with a llama on the front lawn, from 3:00 to 4pm. When asked why the llama couldn't be there longer, A. DeGiorgis replied that it was a staffing issue.

F. Budget Discussion and Vote: A. DeGiorgis presented the proposed budget. Motion Made to approve the Budget. 2nd. Discussion. A. DeGiorgis stated that salary is determined by Union negotiations. She went over the proposed budget line by line. That Books/Subscriptions also covers the digital subscriptions. The the cost of both the NY Times and Washington Post went up. The she is still

working on getting the Boston Globe online.

When questioned about her statement of "level funding", an Audience member questioned her, not recalling that the Finance committee asked that of the libraries. A. DeGeorgis replied that it was the Town Hall, that she will check her notes on that.

Motion Made to Approve the Proposed Budget. 2nd. Discussion, see above.

Roll call via Zoom: P. Hollenbeck: Yes K. Plungis: Yes L. Clark: Yes

M. Heilbrun: Yes J. Stanhope: Yes C. Tucci: Yes

Vote: 6 – 0 Motion Passes.

A. DeGiorgis asked for projects from the Trustees that she can relay to the DPW Supervisor. Trustees noted that past requests such as security cameras, the ability to open the windows at Ramsdell and Mason, air scrubbers, new outdoor flags, yearly sealing of Ramsdell's doors, etc. have been on lists in the past couple years. Continued discussion. A. DeGiorgis asked that the Trustees contact her with any other projects.

JS asked about the outdoor Storywalk placards outside of Mason. That they need to be better placed for the winter. A. DeGiorgis stated that the staff is figuring out more substantial holders. A. DeGiorgis stated that keeping the outdoor display going is a way to reach out to families. KP noted that there is money in State Aid to pay for ones.

Motion Made to Approve the Proposed Maintenance items for both libraries. MH:

2nd. Roll call via Zoom: P. Hollenbeck: Yes K. Plungis: Yes L. Clark: Yes

M. Heilbrun: Yes J. Stanhope: Yes C. Tucci: Yes

Vote: 6 – 0 Motion Passes.

G. Deb Koffman Artspace: PH stated that it will occur the first Tuesdays of each month, beginning in January at Ramsdell Library.

Deb Koffman's exhibition in the Libraries-mid June 2022:

PH stated that her artwork will be on display at Ramsdell for a couple months and then move to Mason about mid June.

II. Business:

A. Treasurers Report: Moved to 7 pm. J. Stanhope had a couple questions, one dealing with the money in a fund, DeGiorgis stated that it is cumulative.

That the money in the Fines section goes to the Town Hall on June 30th. Report

provided by A. DeGiorgis was fine. (See attached report)

B.. Building and Grounds: C. Tucci stated that he has been in contact with Amanda and with the DPW Supervisor.

III. Starting at 6pm: Presentation and Discussion of the proposed W.E.B. DuBois statue at Mason.

Julie Michaels presented a background of herself and why she is pursuing the effort begun by the late Freke Vuijst, an original advocate of a statue of DuBois to be located at Mason Library. That Freke was a very good friend of hers and that she wants to move the vision of a DuBois statue in front of Mason forward. That there is a mock-up of the proposed statue and setting for how it would look in front of Mason Library's front lawn currently on display in the Mason Library's first floor.

A discussion of nearly an hour took place with questions from various Trustees and comments from 7 participants via Zoom.

Questions from the Trustees: whether Ms. Michael's group should solicit other sculptors, particularly African American sculptors, to submit their designs, (Ms. Michaels wants the placement of the statue and sitting wall outside the library to create a "community feeling", that outside the library would be a place for people to gather.

Where is the money coming from to pay for the design, the statue, the sitting wall, etc. Do they have a budget in place (No, they hope to use the Friends nonprofit status to solicit donations),

Do they have a timeframe in place? Ms. Michaels doesn't want this process to take 2-3 years. That there needs to be commitment, energy and money.

Whether this group is working with Randy Weinstein's DuBois group (Ms. Michaels stated that they are aware of her efforts). Have they been in touch with the DuBois department at UMass Amherst?

It was noted that 3 of the current Trustees weren't on the Board of Trustees when the Board gave their initial approval for this. Further discussion amongst the Board and the virtual Audience. 4 Trustees had questions. 7 audience members gave positive comments on the statue project. At one point, it seemed that 20 people were in the Audience during this discussion. E. Abrahams was the Co-host of this web-air. It was the first time the Board used the Town's web-air and PH thanks Ed for setting it up and acting as Co-host.

P. Hollenbeck stated that the discussion can be continued to the January Trustee meeting. There was discussion about that. P. Hollenbeck stated that he wanted to give the opportunity to educate the public, get the word out.

Julie stated that she is happy to come back to speak in January.

There was a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays, thank you for coming,

exchanged by Ms. Michaels and P. Hollenbeck.

IV. Citizens Speak: None

V. Board Speak: None

V. Adjournment: KP: MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 7:14pm. 2nd.

All in agreement. Adjourned.

Kathleen Plungis, Trustee

Next Trustee Meeting is January 13, 2022

Pursuant to MGL. 7c. 30A sec. 20 (f), after notifying the chair of the public body, any person may make a video or audio recording of an open session of a meeting of a public body, or may transmit the meeting through any medium. At the beginning of the meeting, the chair shall inform other attendees of any such recordings. Any member of the public wishing to speak at the meeting must receive permission of the chair. The listings of agenda items are those reasonably anticipated by the chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted.

December Library Life January 13, 2022

Stats from December:

Libby/OverDrive: 1,600

Mason Circulation (everything): 6,468

Ramsdell Circulation (everything): 965

Mason had 4,808 in person visitors

Ramsdell had 294 in person visitors

- Happy New Year!
- **Staffing Update:** We have completed interviews for our FT vacancy and are in the process of hiring our chosen candidate. I hope that the person will be cleared to start in a week or two. One FT staff member remains out on leave and we have had some COVID challenges as well. We are doing our best to keep both buildings going (either curbside or in person). The next couple of weeks to months will see the need for continued flexibility and creativity. Huge thank you to my staff for continuing to show up and adapt to these ever-changing times while keeping their good humor about it.
- **Indigenous Land Acknowledgement:** Talya has been working on a land acknowledgement for the libraries after the Town approved their own in 2020. She has put together the attached packet. I am asking the Trustees to vote on the language and we will display the acknowledgement next to the Native American artifacts in Mason Library and will include it on the website. Stockbridge Library has done this as well as several others in the area.
- **Funding Request:** \$1,500 from State Aid to cover adult and children's programming until May.



Land Acknowledgement of the Great Barrington Libraries

Related to our mission of supporting and fostering learning through the dissemination of knowledge, the Great Barrington Libraries acknowledge that the lands on which our buildings stand are the traditional lands of the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of the Mohican People. We acknowledge the painful history of dispossession and forced removal from this territory, and we honor and respect the many diverse Indigenous peoples still connected to this land on which we gather. We honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations. We commit to continuing to learn how to become better caretakers of the land we inhabit, to understand the history and traditions of those who cared for it before us, and to learn from the successes and failures of preceding generations.

Adopted by the Library Trustees on _____

Etc., etc.

TO: Trustees of the Great Barrington Libraries
FROM: Talya Leodari, Assistant Director – Community Outreach, GB Libraries
RE.: Indigenous Land Acknowledgment
DATE: November 19, 2021

As a library staff member, and a specialist in cross-cultural communication and reconciliation, I urge the Trustees of the Great Barrington Libraries to adopt an Indigenous Land Acknowledgment, which can be posted on the library website and in the buildings themselves, especially near the collection of Indigenous artifacts on display in Mason Library. The adoption and posting of Land Acknowledgments has become standard practice for any institution that holds collections of Indigenous artifacts, and we have had patrons express surprise that we do not have one available.

Attached please find draft language for a Land Acknowledgement, as well as a copy of the language used by the Town in its acknowledgment.

Attachments: Draft of Land Acknowledgment language
Copy of the Town of Great Barrington's Land Acknowledgment
Draft presentation sign of Land Acknowledgment to be posted in Libraries

Town of Great Barrington - Official Land Acknowledgement

"As we gather this evening for our annual town meeting, where we will decide upon the future direction of our community, it is important that we also look to, and learn from, the lessons of the past. We want to acknowledge that we are gathered on the traditional lands of the Mohican People, and honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations. We commit to continuing to learn how to become better caretakers of the land we inhabit, to understand the history and traditions of those who cared for it before us, and to learn from the successes and failures of preceding generations, in the pursuit of a more just, equal, Great Barrington."

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TITLE: Town of Great Barrington, MA Land Acknowledgment

BACKGROUND: Great Barrington sits on indigenous lands belonging to the Mohican People. The Mohicans' lands extended from what is now Lake Champlain, south to Manhattan, on both sides of the Hudson River. Their territory also extended east into what is today Western Massachusetts. On April 25th, 1724, the lands upon which Great Barrington, Sheffield, Mount Washington, and Egremont (as well as parts of several other towns west of the Housatonic River), were exchanged by the Mohicans for four hundred sixty pounds, three barrels of cider, and thirty quarts of rum.^{1,2}

Before the Revolutionary War, the Mohicans resided primarily in Stockbridge but after the war, they were displaced westward, with the indigenous government today headquartered in Shawano County, Wisconsin. The Mohicans banded with other indigenous communities in this region to form the Stockbridge-Munsee Community.

On September 23rd, 2019, Great Barrington proclaimed the second Monday in October as "Indigenous Peoples' Day." To recognize our history and that of the Mohican People who inhabited the land upon which our town is built, @GBLabs, an innovation partner working with the Town of Great Barrington, has drafted the accompanying land acknowledgment.

A land acknowledgment is a formal statement that recognizes the indigenous populations who lived on the land where a community is now located. As residents, we have a duty to reflect upon, and learn, from our past, by recognizing indigenous peoples as the traditional stewards of our land, by learning about their history and culture, and by closely examining the history of how our community came to. It is our hope that this land acknowledgment will help empower indigenous voices within our community and beyond, inspire non-indigenous individuals to learn more about native communities and their history, and to bring us all together in the pursuit of a stronger, more inclusive, and equitable future for our town, community, and country.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

RECOMMENDATION: @GBLabs recommends that the attached land acknowledgment be read aloud before the Great Barrington Town Meeting on an annual basis.

PREPARED BY: Joe Grochmal @GBLabs Director and Georges Pichard @GBLabs Intern

APPROVED BY:

Mark Pruhenski/Town Manager

10/23/2020

¹ Rachel Wheeler, *To Live upon Hope: Mohicans and Missionaries in the Eighteenth-Century Northeast* (Cornell University Press, 2008), 17, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.7591/j.ctt7z92k>.

² Bernard A. Drew, *Great Barrington: Great Town - Great History*, First Edition (Great Barrington Historical Society, 1999), 191.

Appropriated Account	Date	Start	End	Total Spent
Dues	12/31/2021	\$1,010	\$51.00	\$959.00
Equipment Repairs	12/31/2021	\$3,200	\$1,256.80	\$1,943.20
Office Supplies	12/31/2021	\$10,350	\$7,649.17	\$2,700.83

Appropriated Account	Date	Mason		IP		YA		Child		Adult		IP		Ramsdell		eContent		Joint Services**		Contingency		Total	Balance	Spent
		Start	End	Start	End	Start	End	Start	End	Start	End	Start	End	Start	End	Start	End	Start	End	Start	End			
Print/Subscriptions	12/31/2021	\$22,685.00	\$14,437.94	\$6,000.00	\$3,204.17	\$3,800	\$3,165.38	\$17,000	\$6,956.65	\$9,000	\$5,272.74	\$800	\$468.58	\$3,000.00	\$792.91	\$10,000.00	\$6,556.25	\$5,900.00	\$7,114.40	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$79,185.00	\$43,876.02	\$35,308.98
Nonprint	12/31/2021	\$10,100.00	\$5,192.24			\$800	\$29.94	\$6,000	\$2,561.57	\$5,000	\$3,181.61					\$9,000.00	\$4,236.37	\$4,172.00	\$0.00	\$918.00	\$918.00	\$35,990.00	\$16,139.73	\$19,850.27
Program Supplies	12/31/2021	\$895.00	\$419.74					\$1,650	\$949.60	\$625	\$426.41											\$3,170.00	\$3,795.76	\$1,374.22

** Joint Print: Wowbrary, Magazines, Wash Post, WSJ
** Joint Nonprint: WebDewey (cataloging), NYT, NYT Cooking

Non-Appropriated in Library		Balance	
Account	Date	Mason	Ramsdell
Out of State Fees	12/31/2021	\$275.00	\$0.00
Copier Fees	12/31/2021	\$526.81	\$2.00
Fines	12/31/2021	\$1,195.84	\$7.00
Donations	12/31/2021	\$23,617.17	\$12,534.03

Non-Appropriated Trusts		Balance		Stipulations	
Account	Date	Mason	Ramsdell		
Mason Trust	12/31/2021	\$325.79		Spend interest only. Mason only.	
Ramsdell Trust	12/31/2021	\$2,823.92		Spend interest only. Ramsdell only.	
Chesnow	12/31/2021	\$814.19		Spend interest only. Literacy related	
Wheeler	12/31/2021	\$287.23		Unrestricted by library or purpose	
Hollenbeck	12/31/2021	\$200.75		Spend interest only. New books for Mason.	
Dewey	12/31/2021	\$264.57		Spend interest only. Nonfiction books for Mason	
McKinley	12/31/2021	\$5,944.66		Spend interest only. Traditionally for large print for Mason but otherwise unrestricted	
Smith	12/31/2021	\$1,967.02		Spend interest only. Traditionally for children's but no library specified	

Capital Accounts		Balance	
	Date		
M Capital Donations	12/31/2021	\$1,597.60	Mason only. For capital projects.
R Capital Donations	12/31/2021	\$5,118.00	Ramsdell only. \$1000 earmarked for parking lot. For capital projects

State Aid		Balance	
Account	Date	Start	Current
Adult	12/31/2021	\$1,800.00	\$0.00
Mason Children's	12/31/2021	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Ramsdell	12/31/2021	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other	12/31/2021	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Allotted		\$2,800.00	\$0.00
Total in Account		\$79,477.93	\$29,477.93
Total Available after allocation			

Du Bois Memorial

2022.01.13 SD 02



AFORMSA

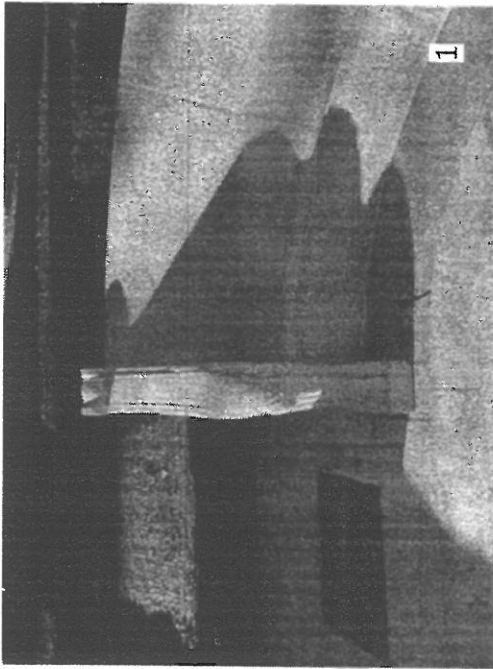
Grigori Fateyev, principal

413.429.5302

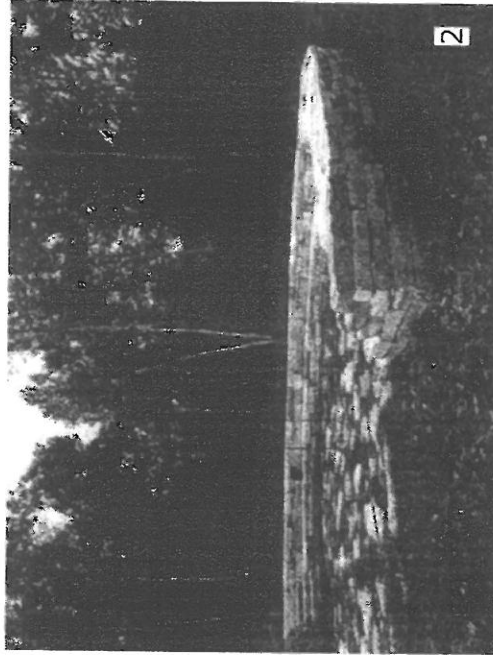
gf@aformsa.com

www.aformsa.com

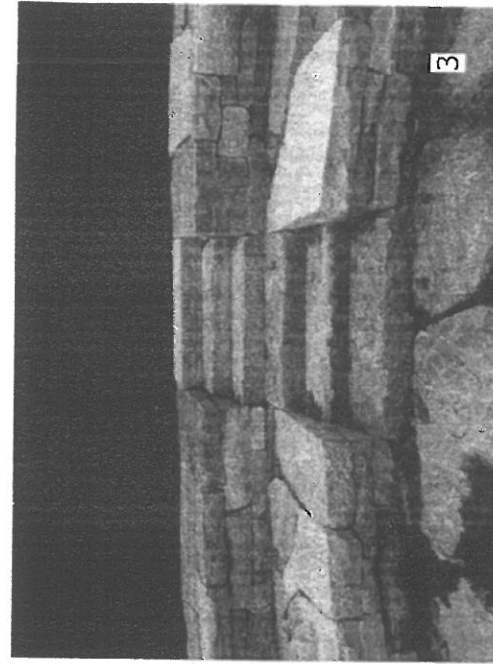
- Repair the front steps: the steps are falling apart, masonry joinery is failing and the base seems to be insufficient; recommend reviewing the detailing with a consultant (Vern Towers)
- Restore the prominence of the historic detailing of the stairs, currently, they are partially buried in soil, losing its "spill out" quality characteristic for Georgian Revival
- Install new handrails that confirm to performance requirements of MA Building Code and enhance the flowing quality of the original steps
- Lawn (Option 1) or Stone Patio (Option 2) is flanked with native, wild flower planter, that delineates area between the seat, lawn and ramp.
- The seating area constructed with locally sourced and reclaimed marble will improve the existing space adding a natural gathering space on the main street
- The seat will serve as a framing device for bronze sculpture of W.E.B. DuBois
- Low light fixtures will replace the existing bollards. The light fixture design will echo another contemporary element-the handrail. The light fixture is selected to be unobtrusive and direct the light towards the surface of the ramp.



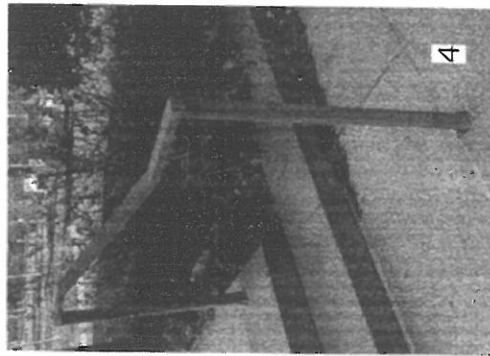
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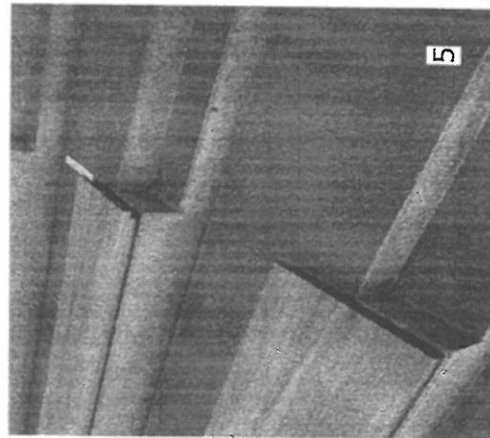
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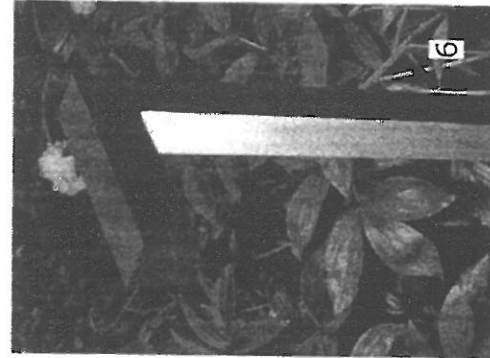
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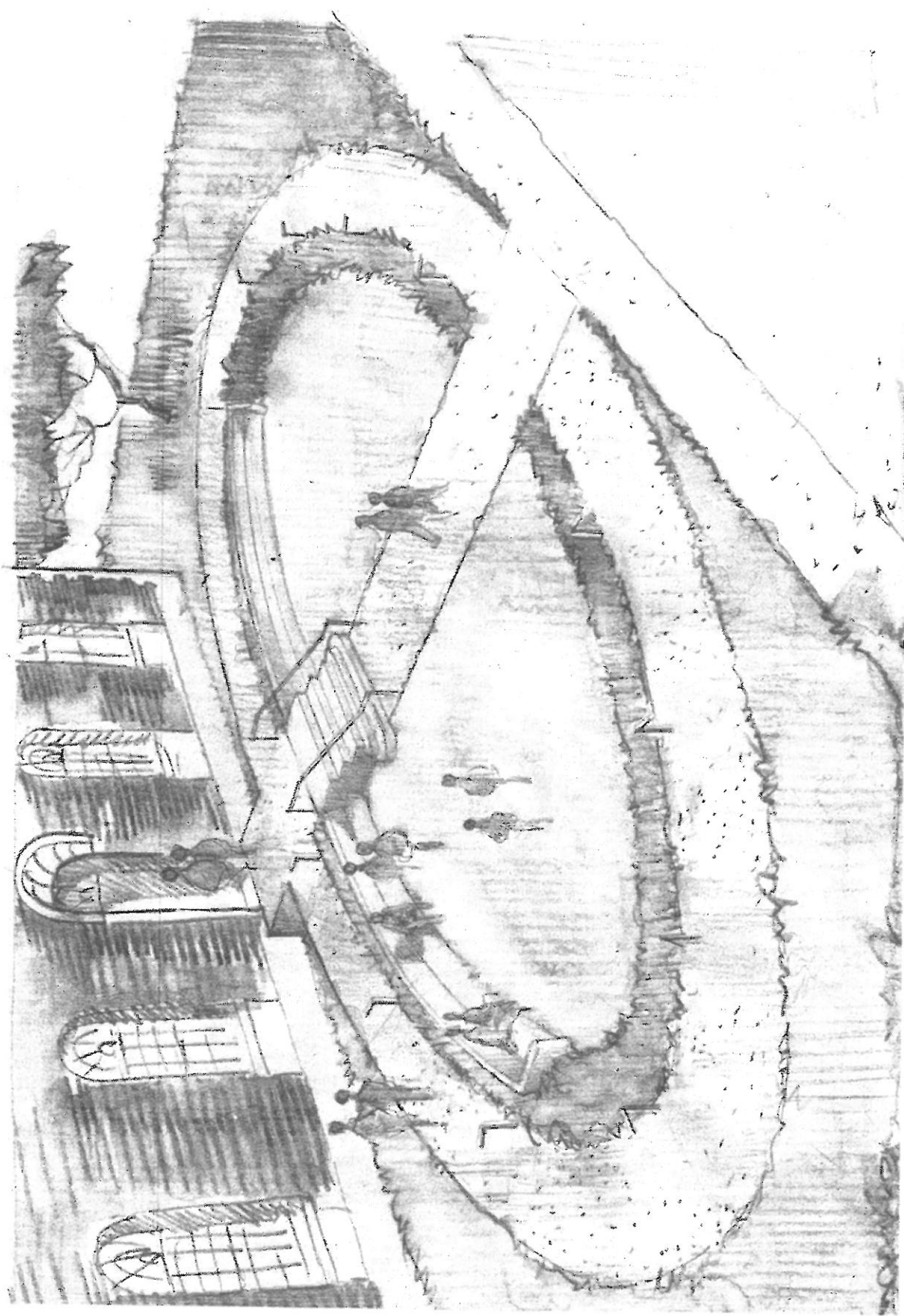


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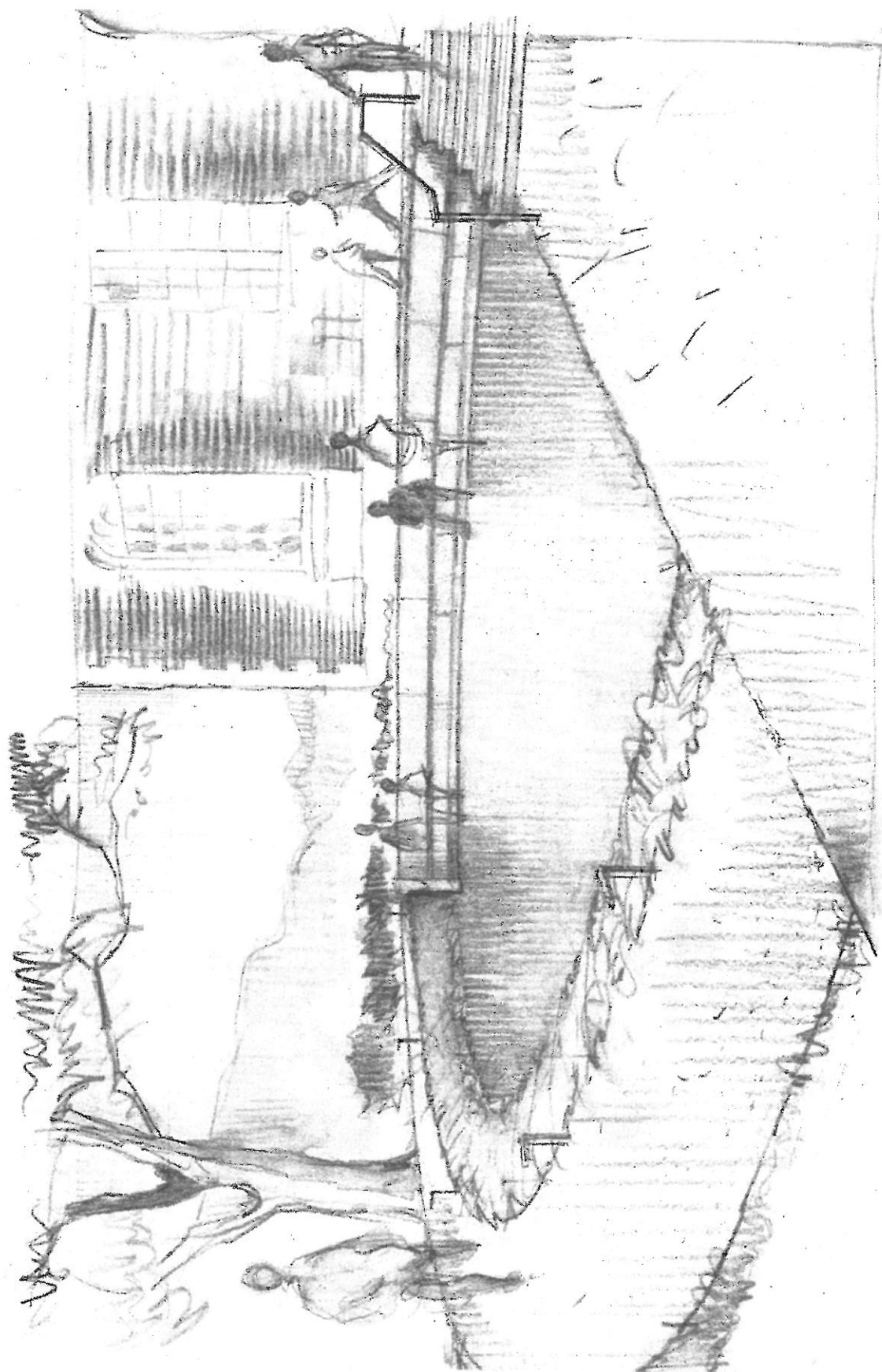


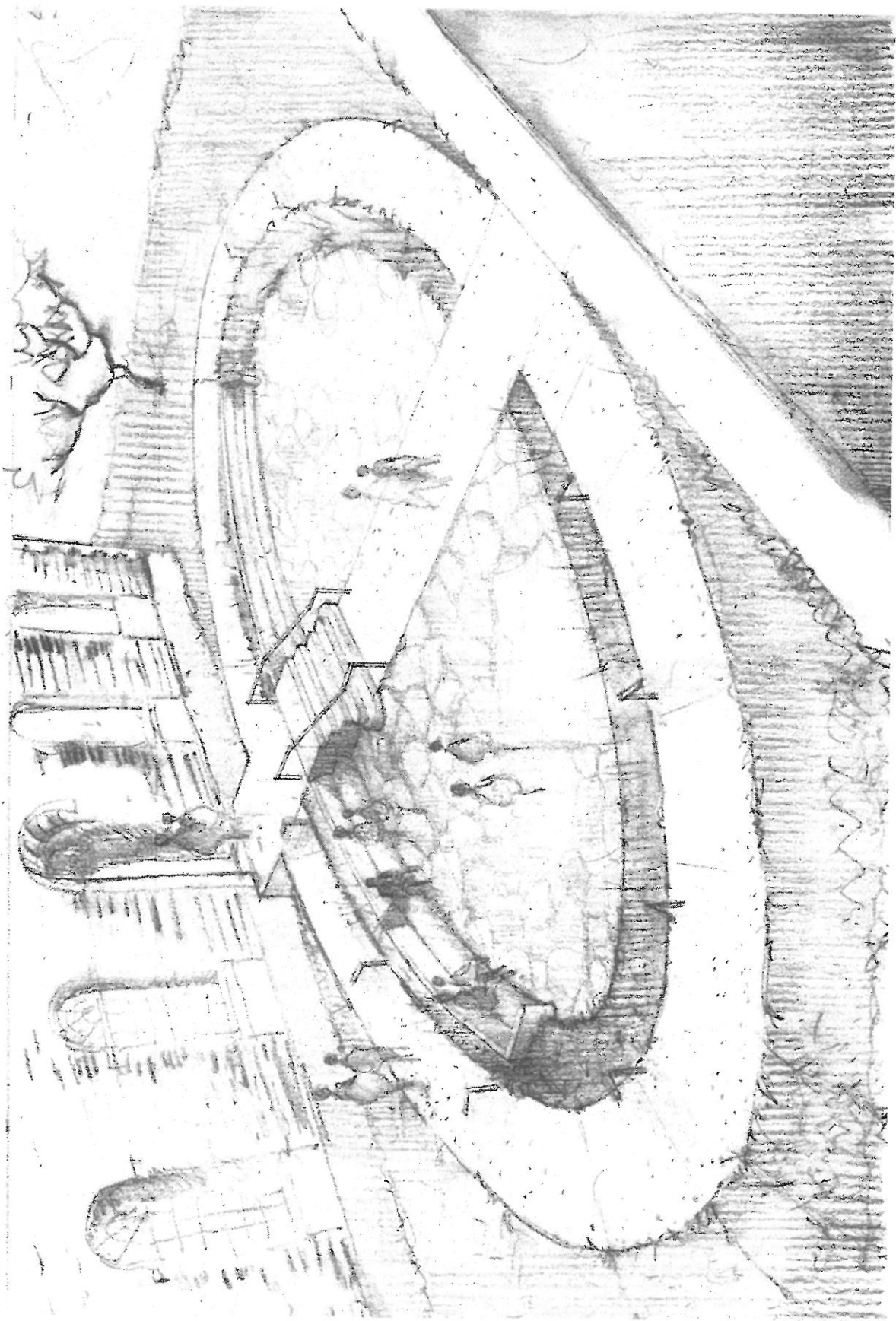
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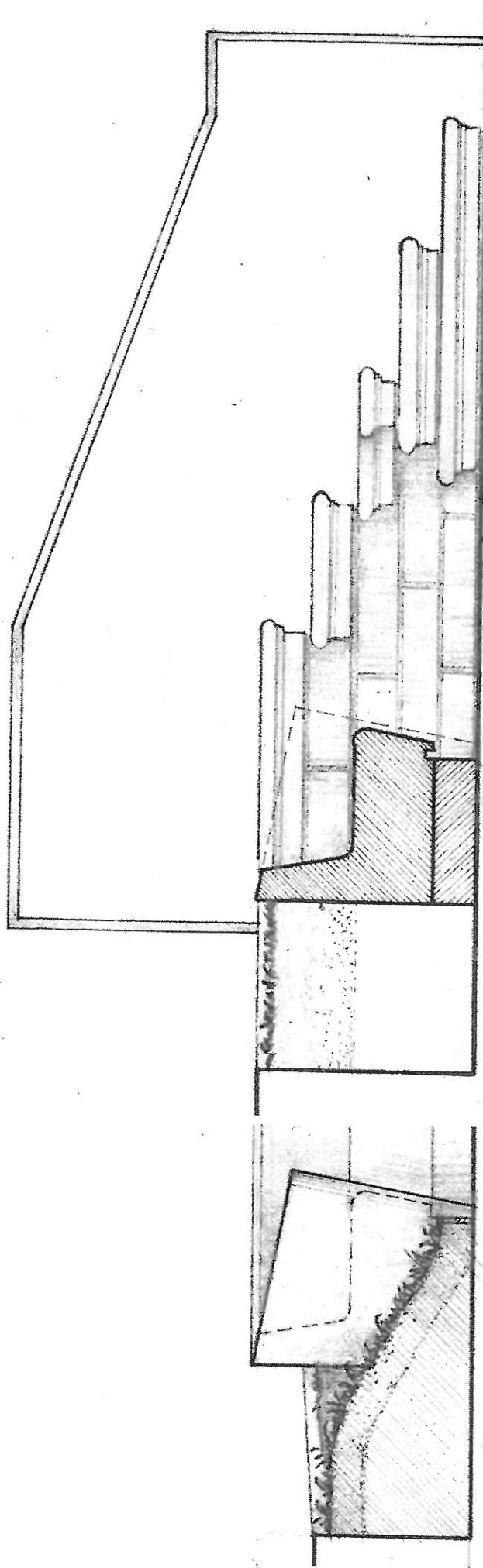
1. Town Hall Bench, Gt. Barrington, MA
2. Marble Amphitheater, W. Stockbridge, MA
3. Marble Amphitheater, W. Stockbridge, MA
4. Hand Railing, Amherst, MA
5. Seating and Steps, Amherst, MA
6. Light Fixture, Tech Lighting
7. Light Fixture, Tech Lighting











SECTION: AT SEAT WITH NEW HANDRAIL

SECTION: AT EDGE