

Groton Public Library Board of Trustees
Final Meeting Minutes
March 29, 2016 at Legion Hall
Approved, April 19, 2016 Meeting

Attending: Jane Allen, Mimi Dabritz, Kristen von Campe, Nancy Wilder, David Zeiler and Vanessa Abraham, Flying Ants, and Park Commission Member Bob Flynn

Absent: Mark Gerath

Jane Allen called the meeting to order, all the while, smashing ants, 19:02.

Nancy Wilder spent the meeting waving her hands in the air and combing her fingers through her hair to repel flying ants.

Vote Summary

- Kristen von Campe moved the following statement: “The Trustees of the Groton Public Library are strongly opposed to any closure of Playground Road to vehicular traffic as it would have a profound and detrimental impact on GPL patrons.” Mimi Dabritz seconded: Passed 5 – 0

Action Items

- Vanessa Abraham to call Mark Haddad regarding flying bug infestation at Legion Hall
- Vanessa Abraham to post a joint Trustees meeting with the Parks Commission
- David Zeiler to dig a hole by retaining wall to investigate the crack once we have the proper paperwork signed.

Retaining Wall: Vanessa Abraham, Jane Allen and David Zeiler met with abutting neighbor, Greg Fishbone, to discuss the scope of the proposed work and to provide a rough timeline of the repair to the wall. Greg was very receptive to our explanations, but sought reassurances, which were given, that his property would be returned to its existing state after any work was done. He also requested that the fence be extended to the curb, to join his fence, to stop people from jumping off of our wall into his yard and using it as a shortcut to the playing fields – a behavior he has observed on numerous occasions. It was agreed that the fence would be extended to the sidewalk. Subsequent to that meeting, on the advice of Selectman Josh Degen, Groton resident Val Prest, who is a civil engineer, came to look at the wall. He thought that a more comprehensive repair should be undertaken, including putting stainless steel “deadmen/sleepers” into the wall and burying them back into the GPL property to give more support to the wall. Mason Stan Archambault has yet to give us a quote for these new specifications other than to say it would be “much bigger job.” Vanessa Abraham has the name of another contractor, Larry Fiore, who she will contact for a quote. She also verified that it would cost an additional \$600 to run the fence all the way to the curb. It has been suggested that we include \$5,000 in the town warrant article to cover the costs of returning our abutters property to an “as is” state. Nancy Wilder was still swatting flying ants.

Parks Commission: The Parks Commission has discussing closing Playground Road to vehicular traffic on their next meeting agenda. The GPL Trustees were informed of this and

called this special meeting to discuss the impact it would have on the GPL. Commission Member Bob Flynn shared what he knew of the matter. As above, the Trustees are unanimously and strongly opposed to such a move as it would severely hinder automobile traffic in and out of the GPL parking lot. The Trustees thought that better enforcement of existing road regulations would take care of any unsafe driving conditions that may result from increased traffic to the newly remodeled basketball court.

State Aid Changes: The MLBC recently changed its requirements regarding opening hours and how those hours affect eligibility for State Aid. Unfortunately those changes won't help us in our budget battle with the Finance Committee.

Prescott School Re-Use Committee: The Prescott Re-Use Committee is looking for a pledge that the GPL Trustees as a board and as individuals would vote to support that committee's proposals at Town Meeting. The GPL Trustees, citing precedence, agreed that it would not be appropriate to take a position on this matter.

Drive-up Book Return: Upon review of the expenditures of the grant from GPL Endowment Fund, it appears as if there would be enough moneys left in that grant to purchase said book returns using Endowment Funds. The Trustees thought that this was a good use of the Endowment Funds and the GPL Trustee representative on the GPL Endowment board, Kristen von Campe, thought the Endowment would be excited to support such an expenditure. Vanessa Abraham is to procure an updated quote for the book returns.

Director's Items: The GPL subscription to Recorded Books One Click is expiring on March 31 and will not be renewed due to its relative high cost versus usage. The GPL is also not going to be renewing Freading, an ebook service that just ran out of tokens we had paid for many years ago, as its use was quite low. We will be trying a new book, music, TV and video service called Hoopla, which is a pay-per-use model. We have budgeted \$6,000 to start and will limit patrons to 10 uses per month until we have a better understanding of its usage and costs. We have received our second installment of LIG/MEG funds. Our first award was \$9,150 and this award was \$9,560, for a total of \$18,710 for FY16. Mary Jennings has announced her intentions to step down as volunteer Life Long Learning Coordinator. The Trustees thank her for her dedication and organizational prowess. Richard Smith, Architect, will send specs for changes to be made. We are still in the process of procuring a General Contractor for our Space Planning changes. Vanessa Abraham has met with Mike McDonald who has been recommended for that role. The Trustees also suggested that Vanessa Abraham get a quote from Halsey Platt to act in that role.

Adjournment Nancy Wilder moved to close the meeting at 20:45, Kristen von Campe seconded. Passed 5 – 0

Respectfully submitted,

David Zeiler, Secretary

List of Documents Distributed For Use by the Trustees at the Meeting:

1. Meeting Agenda for March 29, 2016
2. New Retaining Wall Information