

Groton Public Library Board of Trustees
May 10, 2016 • Final Meeting Minutes
Approved, 6/14/2016 Meeting

Attending: Jane Allen, Mimi Dabritz, Mark Gerath, Kristen von Campe, Nancy Wilder, David Zeiler & Vanessa Abraham

Jane Allen, Chair, called the meeting to order 19:05.

Vote Summary

- M. Gerath moved to accept the April 19, 2016 minutes as amended, K. von Campe seconded: Passed 6 – 0
- M. Gerath moved to adopt the Closing Policy as amended, N. Wilder seconded: Passed 6 – 0
- M. Gerath, who seems to have nothing better to do than to hog the glory of moving motions, moved to adopt the Library Behavior Policy as amended, N. Wilder seconded: Passed 6 – 0

Action Items

- J. Allen to pursue clarification of Playground Rd use and right of way with Police and Park Commissioners
- V. Abraham to contact the Building Inspector about engineering concerns and regulations for a new retaining wall with engineers blocks
- V. Abraham to post the Trustees joining the May 18 super meeting between the Finance Committee, Board of Selectmen, and the School Committee

Meeting: As above, minutes from April 19, 2016 meeting approved.

Playground Road: There has been no further contact from the Parks Commissioners regarding their debate about the use of Playground Road. The GPL and its patrons are dependent on the full operation of this road. The Trustees directed J. Allen to pursue a meeting with the Police, DPW, and the Parks Commission Chair, Gineane Haberlin, to clarify the future use of this vital roadway.

Standing Committee Reports

Budget and Finance: The FY17 Budget, including an override, was approved by Town Meeting and now will be put to the population of Groton at Town Election for a vote on the override. The Trustees do not have confidence that the override will be approved at the polls. If the budget is not approved by plebiscite, there will be a joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, and the School Committee to draft a new budget for Town Meeting. The presentation for the Retaining Wall Replacement Warrant, including landscaping, is ready for the next Town Meeting.

Building and Equipment: There is some question as to whether an engineering plan is needed for the retaining wall given its height. V. Abraham is to check with the building inspector to see if an engineered block wall needs an official and independent engineering study if it is less than 10 feet in height. The HDC is very interested in the specifics of the process of building the wall

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as well as seeing the actual material that Larry Fiore would use. V. Abraham is working on finding built walls for them to visit.

Policy, Personnel, & Planning: PPP addressed the issue of Trustee family members working at the GPL. While they thought that State Ethics Law did not specifically prohibit the paid employment of a family member of a Trustee at the library, they did think it might have the appearance of impropriety. The Trustees agreed with the findings of the PPP and agreed to discourage such a practice. As above, the Trustees approved changes to the Closing Policy and the Library Behavior Policy. The Beverage Policy for the Historical Room was discussed and it was decided that water in a covered container will be allowed, but nothing else. There was a discussion of changing the staffing levels on Sundays to try to stretch coverage over Fall Sundays now that we have lost funding for these hours. The Trustees agreed that we would not have adequate coverage on all floors of the GPL if we tried to reduce staffing and thus, unfortunately, the GPL will have to close on Fall Sundays.

Liaison Reports

GPL Endowment: The Endowment has approved the expenditure to purchase two drive-up book returns. They agreed to fund this project, as it was one of the most important “wants” identified on our recent survey. The book drops will have plaques indicating that they were donated by the Endowment. The GPL Trustees discussed whether it would be appropriate to ask for funding for a Life Long Learning Coordinator stipend from the Endowment. V. Abraham will be meeting with Mary Jennings, the departing coordinator this Friday and the GPL Trustees will readdress this issue.

Art Committee: There is a new exhibit (*LOOMINGS: Paintings in Oil & Tar*) by Christopher Volpe in the Owen Smith Shuman Art Gallery. This Lowell-based artist was inspired by Herman Melville’s *Moby Dick* and has a series of paintings inspired by the novel, made with traditional oil paints as well as tar. An Artists Reception will be held on June 14.

Flag Dedication: The ceremony to dedicate a new U.S. Flag for the GPL was held on April 22. The flag, which flew over the U.S. Capitol, was generously donated by Groton resident, Peter Macy, a World War II veteran. The ceremony was well attended and even included songs sung by a local girls from Arts Nashoba.

Director’s Items: Deb Ladue will be out for a few months due to shoulder surgery. Phil, our part-time custodian, is back and will be filling in to get the basics done while Deb is out, along with Saturday Custodian Jen, and Roy is pitching in, too; he is back after a brief medical leave. Sharon Cross celebrated her 20th anniversary at the GPL with an ice cream tasting party and gifts! The Trustees congratulate her and thank her for her dedication to the GPL. The contract with Hoopla, an electronic media distribution company, has been signed and their services will be available to our patrons in 4 to 6 weeks. The migration of email accounts to the MVLC server is underway and should be done by the end of June. The staff is receptive to this move as it will give them full feature functionality when accessing their email across different platforms. The Mini-Golf program is gaining steam! Both the Groton Police and Fire Departments have agreed

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to “sponsor” a hole and will have staff at the event. Arts Nashoba has generously agreed to donate props for staff to use to decorate individual holes.

Adjournment: In a rare instance of restraint, Gerath let someone else make a motion. K. von Campe moved to close the meeting at 20:41, Gerath had to get in one last word, so he seconded:
Passed 6 – 0

Respectfully submitted,

David Zeiler, Secretary

Documents distributed to Trustees for Meeting:

- 1. Meeting Agenda for May 10, 2016*
- 2. Draft Minutes for April 19, 2016 Meeting*
- 3. Reports & Statistics for April 2016*
- 4. New Closing Policy Draft*
- 5. Library Behavior Policy: Public Health Section Draft*
- 6. Playground Road Info.*