

**KPL Board of Trustees, Minutes
Tuesday, December 20, 2016,
Horatio Colony House Museum**

Convened at 5:20 p.m.

Present: Jennifer Alexander, Paul Henkel, Ken Jue, Sally Miller, Kathleen Packard, Judy Putnam, George Scott, Nat Stout, Bill Stroup, Nancy Vincent, Anita Weldon of the Colony House Museum, and Don Wilmeth

Not Present: Charles Redfern

Brief discussion occurred about the recent, successful KPL volunteer luncheon, which roughly 25 volunteers attended.

MOTION: Judy moved for the approval of minutes to the November 15 Board of Trustees meeting. Ken seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Finance Committee:

Ken distributed minutes of the finance committee meeting.

A proposal from Bartlett Tree Experts was distributed regarding a landscaping improvement plan. In particular was an itemized plan to remove dead branches from the Thayer oak at the front of the library.

Ken beseeched the city to incorporate maintenance of the library's grounds. The finance committee, nonetheless, unanimously approved a motion to recommend to the full Board to spend \$1,775 to remove the dead branches, with money to come from the Edward Jones trustees account.

Discussion ensued on the possible lifespan of the tree and the possible hazard of falling branches in an area where young children play.

Kathleen said Parks and Recreation Director Andy Bohannon told her he will submit a supplemental budget request next year for maintenance of trees on library property.

The total cost of the full Bartlett Tree Experts proposal, including other work around the library grounds, was \$6,000, Judy reported.

Kathleen said the Thayer oak tree probably qualifies as historic or exceptionally large.

MOTION: Bill moved that due to safety concerns associated with the Thayer Oak that the Trustees Funds be used to cover costs up to \$1775.00 as cited in the Bartlett Tree proposal dated 8/31/16 for pruning dead limbs from this oak on an emergency basis; also noting this motion is made with the expectation that future tree and shrub maintenance costs will be incorporated into the 2017 City Facilities budget request. Judy seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Buildings and Grounds

Kathleen said meetings with city staff have been occurring with reviews of drawings. Another meeting with an energy group was expected soon. She noted that the old homestead club is planning work to place greenery in the urn in front of the library. The

flagpole has been in disrepair, but the city facilities department is planning repairs to it, Kathleen said.

Community Outreach

Jennifer said she heard from Gail Zachariah that the gingerbread people project was completed, and that it was opened up to many more families. Jennifer said Friends of the Keene Public Library have allocated \$1,600 to purchase a door surveyor, which will allow tracking of patrons, which, in turn, will provide data useful for grant applications. The hope is to get the system in place right away.

The usage of space next door is part of the committee's concern, Jennifer said.

Ken noted that many changes are expected in 2018 for the Monadnock United Way, including possibly the need for new spaces. He expects United Way will integrate with a greater variety of organizations. Ken also noted he will chair the Monadnock United Way in 2018.

Ken then suggested the board consider the library's role in promoting the well-being of our community and that the board could influence the community in a programmatic way.

Jennifer discussed children's interpretation of the results of the election, including discussion of the wall. The library can do something to combat negativity in our community, she said. Discussion then revolved around combatting prejudice. Kathleen suggested the library might bring in a mediator to discuss these difficult topics in such a way as to keep things on track and positive.

The library is a place of knowledge and inclusiveness, Jennifer said, and a place to combat blatant discrimination.

Policy

The policy committee met on Dec. 6. Bill noted that substantial changes will be needed in all policy references to buildings as well as to historic references and to technologies. Discussion also ensued on the right to read, right to view, and the right of freedom from discrimination. Policy must be developed to consider the use of space and faculties for the making of things, Bill noted. Needed also will be references to particular doors and what can be allowed in the lobby. The committee plans to have policy revisions available for the trustees to review soon.

Sally commended the committee for being proactive, noting in particular that many changes are likely soon, and that in the next two years, there will be upheaval with all the facilities changes. We all will have to be patient and stay together, Sally said.

Long-range planning

Sally noted the city council passed a motion needed to proceed with New Markets Tax Credits. Another Keene Library Annex Advisory Committee (KLAAC) meeting was set for January 11, 2017. Sally added that renovations will likely take 14 months. She urged everyone's consideration for Library Director Nancy Vincent and the library staff during this time. Hopefully in April construction will begin, Sally said.

Nancy discussed negotiations with the Monadnock Economic Development Corporation

(MEDC) on agreements that still need to be signed; that could happen within the next month.

Sally also commended those who have worked on the fundraising, in particular co-chair, Judy.

Judy explained that \$4 million, the end-of-year goal, was reached at the beginning of December and that an additional \$50,000 had been raised.

Sally also noted that the library director should be commended for her work all year. Additionally she said she intended to write Planning Director Rhett Lamb to thank him and the planning department staff for their wonderful work. A round of applause was given for all,

Judy noted that, even with New Markets Tax Credits, the fundraising goals for the project remain the same.

Discussion of the money that could come in from New Markets Tax Credits ensued.

Discussion followed on some of the itemized costs of the project including administrative, building value and project value insofar as it affects total Fair Markets Tax Credits.

Judy related a story about one donor who was positively affected by the approach of Dita Englund toward the need for a substantial gift.

Discussion followed referencing the library's acquisition of Heberton Hall by means of a joint effort of the library trustees and the Friends of the Keene Public Library.

Fine Arts

No report

Friends of the Keene Public Library

Nancy noted the Friends approval of the people-counting device. She noted that an AWE computer also was funded, as was a stand-up computer stand.

Horatio Colony report

Anita said the Horatio Colony Museum was interested in helping children understand other cultures, just as Horatio Colony was appreciative of other cultures. The museum is interested in collaborating on programs with the Keene Public Library.

The Horatio Colony Nature Preserve just opened up a larger view to Monadnock Mountain, Anita said. The work was part of the larger California brook project wherein hiking trails were extended to 10 miles.

The rare book collection has just been cataloged, Anita said. A copy of Horatio Colony's book has been given to the KPL. The museum's rare book collection totals 1,951 books spanning 309 years, 1662 being the earliest year a book in the collection was published.

Discussion ensued on the history of the Colony family.

Anita noted that the museum received a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to study community connections. The grant lays the groundwork for the museum to become more of a community resource. As a result, there is likely to be more

collaboration between the museum and the Cheshire County Historical Society, she said.

The museum house tour has been revamped, Anita said, with renewed focus on Horatio Colony, and more emphasis on the property, going back to 1735 and to Nathan Blake, who formed the basis for Ernest Heberts book “The Old American”.

At 6:42 Kathleen was excused from the meeting to due to a commitment and Judy assumed the chair.

Cheshire County Literacy Coalition

No report

Library Directors report

Interviews have been occurring for the Children's Librarian position, Nancy said. The person previously in the position, Donna, left to assume a library director position.

Staff has been holding clean-up days, working one area at a time, which helps everyone to feel upbeat and positive.

Nancy made reference to a “Freedom to Read” statement written in the McCarthy era.

Old Business

None

New Business

Sally had received a letter of resignation from Beth Truman, who felt she could no longer make the meetings. The board accepted the resignation with deep regret. The resignation creates a vacancy among the Thayer Trustees, and nominations are now being accepted.

Jennifer asked about parking during and after renovation. Sally said parking should be a little easier to the south of the library, across street on West Street. Nancy noted that downtown merchants are still talking about a possible parking garage downtown.

MOTION: A motion to adjourn was made by George, seconded by Don, and approved unanimously at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nat Stout, Secretary