Brooks Memorial Library
Fine Arts Committee Meeting
December 2, 2015, 8:30 a.m.

Present: Prudence Baird, Judith Bellamy, Howard Burrows, Christine deVallet, Helene Henry; Staff: Jerry Carbone.
Absent: Pam Becker, Tracey Devlin

1. Call to order: Howard called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

2. Changes to the agenda: In cleaning out his office, Jerry found a 1975 appraisal of the Collection which he delivered to Christine for the FA files. He suggested it be scanned and put on the library’s Google drive.

3. Public comment: None

4. Minutes of November 4: The minutes were unanimously approved.

5. Current Projects
   - **Upcoming exhibits:** MAIN FLOOR, MEZZANINE WALLS • The Brattleboro Camera Club’s exhibit will remain through December. • Linn Bruce, whose paintings are now on exhibit at the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, may have an exhibit in the future. • March is the annual town wide Student Art Month, and elementary school exhibits are scheduled as usual throughout the library. • Saxtons River Art Guild may exhibit in April if they agree to use the Mezzanine walls. CHILDREN’S BOOK ILLUSTRATORS CASES • John Gurney continues through December. • Prudence plans to visit the Eric Carle Museum next week to pick up artwork for the illuminated illustrations exhibit in January and February. The works will be stored until installed December 31.

   - **Update: Relocation of FA storage to Mezzanine:** Christine reiterated her intention to use the new FA room as temporary storage space for items as they are sorted for deaccessioning. Since the adjoining room is little used and the outer door is locked, ordinary cardboard packing boxes, sealed, stacked, and coded to identify contents, should be adequately secure to avoid immediate construction. Christine expects to begin the process after January 1.

   - **Update: Community liaisons/promotion efforts:** Howard suggested the FA Committee consider its vision of itself as outlined in the Bylaws, with the aim of integrating FA ideas into the library’s new five-year plan currently under development. Jerry mentioned a study during a past planning cycle that assessed the possibility of adding a third story to the building for gallery and education spaces at some point in the future.

     Howard suggested the library should collect contemporary local artworks to continue its tradition as a community cultural resource into the present and future. Judith explained that although the library has a collection, we don’t actively seek to add to it because of lack of exhibit and storage space, money, and professional staff to oversee its expansion. Jerry noted that the Friends maintain a fund of $2,000 for acquisitions. Judith elaborated that the fund’s purpose was for quick purchase of small items appropriate to the Collection’s guidelines that may occasionally be for sale or auction.

     Howard again mentioned expanding the library’s presence on the Internet by working with Brattleboro resident and Google employee Alex Stinson. Howard said he will email Committee members a Wiki conference report on GLAM (Google Libraries, Archives, and Museums).

     There was discussion about collaborating with other organizations in town, such as BMAC and the Historical Society. Prudence suggested offering Academy School students a field trip to see the illuminated illustration exhibit along with a showing of the animated film The Secret of Kells and an associated activity, and she volunteered to coordinate with the Children’s Room. Judith mentioned Susan Calabria’s work at BMAC with school groups and Virtual Thinking Strategy, and it was suggested she explore with Susan the possibility of conducting a program in connection with the illuminated illustration exhibit.

     “Beyond the Book”: Jerry said Buzz Specter is scheduled for a presentation at 7:30 pm on March 4, 2016. Mary Ide plans to reinvigorate the call for entries of altered books by artists. Howard clarified that “Beyond the Book” is an umbrella term that can encompass different events/activities over time going forward.

6. New Business: There will be an event at the library from 4 to 7 pm on Friday, December 18, in honor of Jerry’s retirement. Further announcements will be forthcoming.

7. Other: Since Judith will call Tracey Devlin and ask for return of the scrapbook of 19th-century pressed flowers she had borrowed and thank her for her service to the FA Committee. She will no longer be a member.

   • Adjournment: Howard adjourned the meeting at 9:43 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting was set for January 20, 2016, after the new director arrives.