Present: Prudence Baird, Pam Becker, Judith Bellamy, Howard Burrows, Christine deVallet; Staff: Starr LaTronica. 

Guests: Elizabeth McCollum, Brattleboro Historical Society, and Alex Stinson, Wikipedia. Absent: Helene Henry

1. Call to order: Howard called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

2. Changes to the agenda: Set schedule for upcoming meetings

3. Public comment: None

4. Minutes of December 2, 2015: The minutes were unanimously approved with a spelling correction to Buzz Spector’s name in item 5.

5. Welcome new director: Committee members welcomed Starr LaTronica as the new library director. Starr talked about her interests in art and museums, especially involving children, and in connecting libraries and museums. Committee members introduced themselves and how they came to the FA Committee.

6. Current Projects

   Upcoming exhibits: MAIN FLOOR, MEZZANINE WALLS • March is Student Art Month in Brattleboro; coordinator Marie Procter has agreed to use the exhibit space without the Main Floor panels. Prudence offered the Children’s cases for exhibits during March. • Saxtons River Art Guild, usually scheduled for April, cannot use the Mezzanine walls, so will not exhibit this year. They may return once permanent, fixed display space on the Main Floor is established.

   CHILDREN’S BOOK ILLUSTRATORS CASES • Prudence reported that the library could buy the animated film The Secret of Kells DVD to show to school groups in conjunction with the Illuminated Illustrations exhibit. Rights to noncommercial exhibition are included in the purchase price, which she estimated at less than $150. The committee discussed times to show the film; ways to publicize the event; asking the Friends to underwrite a portion of costs; an artwork activity for children viewing the film which would then be displayed in the Children’s cases—all to be done by the end of February, when the exhibit ends. Prudence will work with Lindsay on a time for the program during winter break.

   Relocation of FA storage to Mezzanine: Christine reported that Bob Oeser vacuumed and packed the Loud Collection books from the Staff Lounge, and they are now stored appropriately. She will pack the books from the FA storage room herself, wrapping them in protective paper.

   Community liaisons/promotion efforts: Elizabeth McCollum, Brattleboro Historical Society (BHS) trustee and Windham County Historical Museum (WCHM) curator, described her experience and interest in collaborating with local organizations to jointly and securely exhibit art/artifacts from their collections. The BHS has talked about spotlighting Brattleboro’s printing history, reopening the former John B. Fowler print shop as a museum, and sponsoring children’s programs on printing. She expressed interest in being on the FA committee as liaison with BHS/WCHM, and will send a formal letter of interest.

7. New Business: Alex Stinson talked about his work with GLAM (Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Museums), a project of the Wikipedia Foundation to permit institutions to share their cultural resources with a wide public via the Internet. He suggested scanning and uploading two-dimensional images from the library’s collection into existing Wikipedia articles; and organizing an event to bring in people interested in local/regional history to enter text and images into archives. Because of time constraints, the discussion was continued to a later meeting.

8. Other: It was decided to hold FA committee meetings at 10 a.m. on the 4th Monday of the month.

9. Adjournment: Howard adjourned the meeting at 5:47 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, February 22, at 10 a.m.

Notes by Judith Bellamy