Brooks Memorial Library Fine Arts Committee Meeting  
September 28, 2016, 2 p.m.

Present: Prudence Baird, Judith Bellamy, Connie Bresnahan, Howard Burrows, Christine DeVallet;  
Staff: Starr LaTronica. Absent: Elizabeth McCollum

Call to order: Howard called the meeting to order at 2:09 p.m.

Public comment: None

Minutes of June 6, 2016: The minutes were unanimously approved.

Building & Grounds Update: • Construction on the new FA storage and local history rooms has begun. Work is  
scheduled to be completed October 12. Moving can begin by October 15. • No new display cases are needed  
at present. • Prudence requested that only two of the Children’s Illustrators cases be kept, and that they be  
lowered on the wall to better allow children to see the displays. Starr will submit a change order for this work.

Move and Inventory: Christine is packing and recording FA objects preparatory to moving to the new space. A  
complete inventory will be postponed until after the move. She will soon call upon committee members to help  
transport objects and boxes to the new room. Howard commended and thanked Christine for all her hard work.

Proposed Deaccessioning/Disposal: • Christine is segregating items to be purged from the collection, including unac-  
cessioned items, and will compile a list. • Starr said that lawyer and Trustee Jenny Rowe has volunteered to look  
into the legal aspects of disposing of articles. Judith noted that former director Jerry Carbone researched with the  
town attorney legal issues relating to “abandoned property,” so that information is available. • Starr said that Ken  
Gloss from Antiques Roadshow would give a program November 11, including appraising books and paper  
ephemera in the collection.

Five-year Strategic Plan: • Surveys: Howard said a fine arts survey was needed in addition to the current one about  
library services, to help in the planning process. He added that information from surveys can be used to  
courage the public to attend FA and other library meetings. • Engagement of community: Starr wants the library  
to become not just a place in the community but a presence. A way to engage more people is to partner with  
other groups. Prudence suggested a library registration drive targeted to young children by, for example, including  
library card signup with signups for other organizations/activities. • Engaging children with exhibits: Starr said an  
early childhood education grad student has volunteered, and proposed asking her to lead children’s activities  
related to current exhibits. Prudence mentioned the recent death of Anna Dewdney, a local children’s book  
author/illustrator who has exhibited at the library several times. Judith suggested hosting an event in her honor.  
Prudence and Connie will plan an event. Starr suggested asking the Friends to buy books to give to each child  
attendee. • Mission/future vision: Howard suggested making the library a center for fine arts and culture overall,  
since Brattleboro is a “gateway” to Vermont. Judith said the library should not try to lead the arts in town  
because so many arts organizations, activities, and artists are already woven into Brattleboro’s identity. Starr said  
the library should not usurp the role of established successful entities but rather act supportively with them.

Public Exhibition Program: • Christine said that the number of exhibitors has diminished over time, even before the  
program was curtailed for remodeling. Judith noted that when the committee began the public exhibits program,  
it intended to actively solicit exhibitors by regular press releases and other means. Although it wasn’t kept up  
consistently, Christine agreed that the idea could be revitalized.

Display Schedule: • Exhibits will probably resume after construction is finished, but Christine would like someone else  
to assume the responsibility; she feels her skills are better applied to working with the collection. • Mezzanine  
walls, December: The Camera Club may exhibit if construction won’t interfere. • Children’s Illustrators cases, October/  
November: Jim Arnosky. Prudence may ask local artist and teacher Ellen Tumavicus to exhibit her new book, Ralph  
Flies the Coop, for December/January. • 2nd-floor entryway case, October/November: Starr said staff will exhibit their  
crafts in early October to coincide with Vermont Crafts Council events. • It was noted that the Mineralogy Club  
exhibits annually in the case every October/November; Judith will speak with Robert Clements about shifting  
the club’s start date to mid-October.

New Committee Members: • Elizabeth McCollum has joined the FA committee as a community member. • Prudence  
suggested having an artist on the committee and proposed inviting Ellen Tumavicus.

NEXT MEETING: Howard proposed scheduling meetings for the fourth Thursday of the month at 11 a.m. The next  
meeting will be Thursday, October 27, at 11.

Adjournment: Howard adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.