

Brooks Memorial Library — Fine Arts Committee Meeting May 3, 2018

Present Judith Bellamy, Howard Burrows, Sirkka Kauffman. *Staff:* Starr LaTronica. *Guests:* Dodie Gaudet, Leslie Markey (*staff*), Bill Myers, Jody Shippee *Absent:* Prudence Baird, Christine deVallet.

Call to order Howard called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Changes to agenda Howard suggested all present introduce themselves. New faces/guests are Sirkka Kauffman, new library trustee and FA committee member; Leslie Markey, the library's cataloging librarian; Jodi Shippee, cataloger/information manager with the State of Vermont; Dodie Gaudet, retired technical services librarian who digitized the FACollection information for the library's catalog, 2002–05; and Bill Myers, retired art conservator who has worked on some of the library's FACollection objects.

Public comment None

Minutes of April 5, 2018, meeting • Judith said she had edited Prudence's draft minutes but had some remaining questions. It was explained that Connie Bresnahan had withdrawn from the committee because of other commitments; Alex Stinson had missed many meetings because of his work travel schedule; he is no longer a formal member. New trustee Sirkka joined the committee at the April meeting. There are now five members plus Starr (*ex officio*). Judith will ask Prudence to clarify other points. Starr asked Judith to convert the April minutes to the usual format.

FA Collection • ***Inventory, catalog, improving "discovery" of FA in catalog:*** Dodie described her work in cataloging the FA collection. Since she's retired, she doesn't want to take on new projects but is happy to occasionally consult and advise on upgrading FA listings in the catalog. Dodie, Jodie, Bill, Leslie, and Howard began discussing technical ideas related to cataloging. It was decided that the guests would stay after adjournment and meet with Howard, and anyone else interested, to have a fuller discussion.

- ***Updating collection items:*** It was noted that some items seriously need attention. Bill suggested adding condition reporting to the catalog on all items in the collection, and offered to lead the effort and create treatment proposals as needed.

- ***Lending items:*** Starr said that Assistant Town Manager Patrick Moreland had asked if the library would lend pieces from the collection to hang on the first-floor walls of the Municipal Building if it is eventually renovated for the Town Offices. The consensus was that we would, provided that any loaned pieces would be adequately secured and protected. Such an arrangement would allow public display of more of the collection.

Exhibits • ***Children's Illustrators:*** John and Jennifer Churchman will exhibit a book in their "Sweet Pea & Friends" series, June 1–August 30. [Eileen Christelow's "Robins: How They Grow Up" continues during May—ed.]

- ***General: "Brattleboro Words project"*** • Stephanie Greene will install an exhibit about the Stephen Greene Press in display spaces throughout the library. • Abenaki basket maker Judy Dow and Guilford Central School teacher Cory Sorensen will install an exhibit by 4th and 5th graders documenting their research about the eugenics movement in Vermont.

FA community opportunities/programming partners It was suggested that a fundraiser be organized with the Friends to pay for object conservation and frame restoration. Bill offered to update conservation needs of the collection, and to present one or more fundraising workshops for the public on various art restoration subjects.

FA budget The Friends gave the committee a \$500 grant to securely install items from the storage room previously not displayed. John Clements of Zephyr Designs is proceeding with such installation.

Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 10 a.m. The guests and Howard remained to discuss in more detail and technicality their ideas for enhancing item descriptions in the catalog to promote digital access ("discovery").

NEXT MEETING Thursday, June 7, 9 a.m.

Notes by Judith Bellamy