

**Brooks Memorial Library — Fine Arts Committee Meeting**  
**June 7, 2018**

**Present** Judith Bellamy, Howard Burrows, Christine deVallet, Sirkka Kauffman. *Staff:* Starr LaTronica.  
*Guest:* Alex Stinson.

**Call to order** Howard called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

**Changes to agenda** Offer of Thunderbolt signature, need for art coordinators, Terry Sylvester mural, Tasha Tudor Society interest, donation to new recording studio, proposal from local ceramic artist

**Public comment** None

**Minutes of April 5 and May 3, 2018, meetings** *April 5 minutes* as edited and reformatted accepted; *May 3 minutes* accepted with two corrections: spelling of Jodi Shippee's name, and identification of her job as part-time manuscript collection cataloger, Vermont Historical Society, and information manager, State of Vermont.

**FA Collection *Inventory and preservation assessment*—Billy Myers:** • Starr distributed proposals from Billy Myers for documentation, treatment, and a preventive conservation plan for the collection going forward, as well as specific conservation proposals for the *Spirit of Life* and the bronze sculpture, *La Becquée*, on the circulation desk. • Starr said the *Spirit* would be done first. Money is available in the budget for some conservation. • Howard will contact Billy to set a meeting with himself and Christine to discuss conservation projects and priorities.

***Discussions about FA cataloging and discovery ideas following May FA meeting:*** • Participants discussed how to structure the library's catalog to interact with more comprehensive outside information sources, e.g., Wikipedia, Getty Research Institute, Library of Congress. This requires using standardized "vocabulary" (codes in catalog listings) for metadata describing defined types of information, which will be machine-readable and compatible with databases of outside "authorities." Participants agreed that using Wikimedia's "linked open data" is a good intermediate step to accomplish this. • Howard had talked to librarians at Smith and Amherst colleges interested in similar projects, and suggested forming a regional consortium of art libraries to execute such a project. • Christine emphasized that anything done with the catalog along these lines should anticipate changes in library cataloging software as far as possible. • It was proposed that a local group be assembled to decide what to try and how. Alex could present a workshop on how Wikidata works.

• Starr announced that a local woman has offered the library a receipt bearing the *signature of Capt. Thunderbolt/Dr. John Wilson*, which had been in her family. Christine moved to accept the gift; Judith seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

**Exhibits *Children's Book Illustrators:*** • John and Jennifer Churchman will exhibit a book in their "Sweet Pea & Friends" series, June 1–August 30.

• Prudence has resigned as Children's Book Illustrators coordinator and from the FA committee. A **replacement coordinator** must be found before the end of August.

**General:** "Brattleboro Words project" exhibits will continue for a couple of months.

• An **exhibit coordinator** is needed. If no volunteer can be found to take on this task, we could seek funding from the Trustees for a contract position. • Judith noted that exhibit space on the main floor needs to be established as well. Starr said she needs the committee to take charge of these efforts (e.g., job descriptions for coordinator positions).

• Starr said that *Terry Sylvester* again wants to discuss having her Brattleboro mural on permanent display. The mural is in watercolor on rosin paper, not pastel on craft paper, and is therefore much sturdier than we originally thought, making the idea of purchasing the mural somewhat more feasible.

**FA community opportunities/programming partners** Amy Tudor, founder of the *Tasha Tudor Society*, will meet with Starr to discuss the Society's interest in creating a Tasha Tudor commemorative space in Brattleboro. There isn't suitable space in the building, but there was some interest in the garden area.

**Other** • Starr announced that *Guilford Sound*, a recording studio, will donate two sets of recording equipment, one to circulate, and one to be used in the **new recording studio** to be built at the back of the main floor, near the magazine section.

• **Ceramic artist Steve Procter proposed** the interesting idea, to be discussed, of establishing a small program offering beautiful handmade art objects for checkout to patrons.

**NEXT MEETING** Thursday, July 5, 9 a.m.

**Adjournment** The meeting was adjourned at 10:03 a.m.