

**Brooks Memorial Library
Fine Arts Committee Meeting
November 4, 2015, 8:30 a.m.**

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

1. Call to order: Howard called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

2. Changes to the agenda: Prudence added altered books project.

3. Public comment: None

4. Minutes of October 7: Judith distributed changes to item 5, Current Projects, which she had made in response to clarifications from Howard on the first draft. Following the committee's review and discussion, the minutes were unanimously approved with the revisions.

5. Current Projects

Upcoming exhibits: MAIN FLOOR MEZZANINE WALLS •*November:* Brattleboro Camera Club. Nothing is scheduled for December; Christine is not soliciting more exhibits for that space before the renovation. The Camera Club may extend its exhibit through December. CHILDREN'S BOOK ILLUSTRATORS CASES •*November/December:* John Gurney. •*January/February:* Illuminated illustrations from Eric Carle Museum. July and August are open. Prudence suggested moving later exhibits up to close the gap, leaving the end of the year open, in view of plans to move the display cases. The committee agreed. Prudence will contact artists about moving their exhibits earlier in 2016.

Relocation schedule: Jerry said the major part of the renovation work will start in July or after. Ways to rearrange the Children's Illustrators cases and ideas to enhance children's engagement with the art and books were discussed, including interactive technology and bus tours to the Carle Museum. Jerry suggested the new director might have ideas since she was a longtime youth services librarian.

New Director progress: Jerry announced that Starr LaTronica from Binghamton, NY, has been selected as the new library director, to start January 19, 2016. He described her background and her enthusiasm for Brattleboro. He will return after his December 18 retirement as interim acting director until she arrives.

Relocation of FA storage to Mezzanine: Jerry said that Art Greenbaum of GPI Construction gave an estimate of \$7,582 to divide and secure the Genealogy Room to create the new FA storage room. There was extensive discussion about using the space as temporary storage for items sorted out for deaccessioning, as well as the Loud book collection. Christine proposed a way to pack and store items to avoid immediate construction.

Community liaisons/promotion efforts: Present and past promotional efforts were described, including listing in the monthly Gallery Walk booklet, Jerry's weekly e-newsletter, talks about objects in the collection, the FA committee's September displays (before renovation began). New ideas were suggested, such as asking the Humanities Council for a First Wednesdays art historical lecture using objects from our collection, collaborating more with the Brattleboro Historical Society, and instituting an "object of the month" display program. Howard brought up Alex Stinson, cofounder of the Wiki library, who is interested in promoting Wiki tools to make local library resources available internationally.

6. New Business

Fine Arts accessioning and deaccessioning plans: Christine's "Inventory Outline" was presented. Jerry will give it to the library board for information at its next meeting. All agreed it was a complete plan of what needs to be done.

7. Other

Altered Books project: Prudence and Judith had discussed the project after Judith had met with Mary Ide about publicity to attract more professional artists to participate. So far only four have responded. Prudence thought the timeline should be extended. Since the title is "Beyond the Book," the committee discussed activities to stimulate more interest generally, including workshops, a film, and other programs involving kids and adults. Howard will discuss ideas with Mary over the weekend.

8. Adjournment: Howard adjourned the meeting at 9:48 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: December 2, 2015