

Brooks Memorial Library
Planning Committee of the Trustees

Minutes of Meeting January 12, 2015 8:30 a.m. Library Meeting Room.

Present: Trustees: Jane Southworth, Pam Becker, Jerry Goldberg, Jennifer Lann, Howard Burrows (briefly); Citizen member Ann McCloskey; Staff: Jerry Carbone, Jeanne Walsh.

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:32 a.m. by chair Jane Southworth.
2. The agenda was reviewed. No changes or additions were made.
3. No members of the public were present to make comments.
4. Minutes of August 2013 were approved.
5. Continuing Business- none on the agenda.
6. New Business- Jerry Carbone led the discussion which centered on the existing Strategic Plan and prioritizing/ goals for 2015-16.

Jerry pointed out that it had been over a year since the committee had met, and that, in the interim, we have completed our first annual appeal with an excellent response, and have had a generous bequest from Brattleboro citizen Ronald Read. Given these resources, he asked the committee how and in what ways it wishes to proceed? He reminded the committee that changes have happened- a new Children's librarian and assistant, a new librarian when he retires, and a new Town Manager who will arrive this month. He suggested that we should review and continue to reprioritize the goals listed in the Plan. (as follows)

Library Service Priorities 2012-2016

Goal 1. Support Young Readers From Early Literacy On

Goal 2. Satisfy the Curiosity of Library Users Through Life-Long Learning

Goal 3. Connect to the Online World and Help Library Users Find, Evaluate, and use Information.

Goal 4. Stimulate the Imagination of Library Users Through Resources for Reading, Viewing, and Listening.

Goal 5. Provide Access to Welcoming Physical and Virtual Spaces for Library Users.

A general discussion ensued, out of which the following points emerged:

1. We reminded ourselves that we had created the Plan based on input from library users in person and in the online survey.
2. A key issue for the community as noted in the survey is the ongoing loss of library hours.
3. A second key issue is the building's needs, the space available and its potential possible use/s.

Topics brought up under space/building needs were:

- a. Space needs for teen users,
- b. Space needs for Technology/computer users,
- c. Meeting spaces large and small,
- d. Maintenance issues (Jerry reminded us that we have capital needs for the building which have been deferred.)

- e. Jerry reminded us of a report about library spaces done in 2007.
 - f. It was decided that the Buildings and Grounds Committee should meet and revitalize itself and evaluate where we are and what's needed.
 - g. It was also decided that a joint meeting of the Planning Committee and Building and Grounds should be held to look at planning for space needs, and possibly working with an architect.
4. The issue of help for the community in using digital/computer technology (Goal 3) was brought up. The group focused on the idea of a paid person, a tech mentor who could both help the public him/herself and develop a cadre of volunteers for that purpose.
 5. Jerry pointed out that the Life Long Learning Programs could also use a staff person in order to develop and provide them. He noted that he currently does a great deal of that work.
 6. Other issues of concern to the group: programs for middle-school aged children, signage, the idea of mobile resources in the community, and other outreach.
 7. It was agreed that we are at the beginning of an important discussion, and that the Planning Committee and the Buildings and Grounds Committee should hold a joint meeting.
 8. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Next meeting- Tuesday February 3, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. in the library meeting room, jointly with the Buildings and Grounds Committee.