

Wadleigh Memorial Library Trustees Meeting
February 15, 2011

Present: *I hope to stand firm enough to not go backward, and yet not go forward fast enough to wreck the country's cause.*
Tim Barr, Mary Burdett, Chris Costantino, Edith March, Kim Paul, Sarah Sandhage, Mike Tule. Director, Michelle Sampson. Tim Finan, BOS Rep. Bill McKinney, Code Enforcement Officer. Rick Blasé, electrician. Joel Trafford, WMLFacilities Manager

Minutes: *I walk slowly, but I never walk backward.*

November meeting minutes were approved unanimously

Treasurer's Report: *If I had eight hours to chop down a tree, I'd spend six hours sharpening my ax.*

- Reviewed and Accepted
- Discussion about Bill Drescher's, Town Council, bill for the phone call that Cindy Mazza placed after the threatening note was found back in December 2010. There doesn't seem to be a reasonable explanation for a \$200 charge for a 15 minute phone call. Tim Finan will bring the copy of the charge to Guy Scaife, Town Administrator, for review. There may have been some mix-up with the billing, and a town issue was billed to the library account by mistake.
- Mrs. Orsi, wife of a recently deceased patron, will donate 5 year subscription of the Wall Street Journal in memory of her husband in addition to the memorial gifts already received by the library.

Library Status: *Don't worry when you are not recognized, but strive to be worthy of recognition.*

Stats: Circulation

| Circ through JAN | 2010 | 2011 | % Change |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| General Circ | 20,636 | 21,172 | 2.6% increase |
| Downloadable audio & ebooks | 172 | 348 | 102% increase |
| | | | |
| Total Circ | 20,808 | 21,520 | 3.42% increase |

Stats: People Counter

| People Counter | 2010 | 2011 | % Change |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Through JAN | 15,904 | 12,017 | 24% decrease* |

*New/main entry people counter still appears to be off by at least 25%

Stats: Public PCs

| Through JAN | 2010 | 2011 | % Change |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Wireless | n/a* | 140 | |
| Public PCs | 2081 | 1680 | 19% decrease |
| Total through JAN | 2081 | 1820 | 12.5% decrease |

*Wireless stats not gathered until July 2010

Personnel *I do not think much of a man who is not wiser today than he was yesterday.*

- Performance reviews due to R. Bolduc by February 28, 2011.
- Next staff meeting: Thursday, March 10.

Facilities/Collections *Things may come to those who wait, but only the things left by those who hustle.*

- Final IP camera for exterior of building was installed.
- Weeding more of the VHS tapes which haven't circulated of late.

Systems *A house divided against itself cannot stand.*

- Status quo

Programs: *Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power.*

- **Children's:** Regularly scheduled storytimes for all ages; Baby lapsits (Weds); LEGO Block Party (Feb 28); Paws to Read (Mar 12).
- **YA:** Pizza & Pages Book Club reads *Mysterious Benedict Society* by Stewart (Feb 17); Chicks with Sticks Book Club reads *Izzy Willy-Nilly* by Cynthia Voigt (Mar 3); Animanga Club (Mar 8); Teen gaming (Mar 9).

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- **Adult:** AARP Tax Assistance begins Feb 1 (Tues AM an Thurs afternoons through April); Acoustic Café featuring Gloucester Hornpipe & Clog Society (Feb 19); Evening Book Group reads *Tale of Two Cities* (Feb 22); Morning Book Group to read *Secret Life of Dust* by Hannah Holmes (Mar 10).

Other *What kills a skunk is the publicity it gives itself.*

- Annual statistical report for NHSL/ALA due April 30.
- Development Fund to meet Tue., Feb 22 @ 7pm.
- Friends of the Library to meet Wed., Feb 23 @ 7pm.

91 Nashua: *The love of learning, the sequestered nooks, And all the sweet serenity of books.*

Joel discovered some sketchy electrical wiring while working at 91 Nashua Street. He called in Rick Blase and Bill McKinney to check. It was decided to do a full inspection. The results of the inspection indicate that there is significant and expensive work that needs to be done on the building; substandard wiring and structural concerns. After considerable discussion, the trustees have decided to not fix the building. Both leases will not be renewed after March, and the tenants will be notified that they need to make other living arrangements. Bill McKinney will start the process of condemning the building. At this point, the building is not in imminent danger of collapse or fire. Joel has shored up the sagging beams in the basement and Rick Blase has repaired and rerouted the dangerous wiring. He has installed multiple smoke and gas detectors, so it is safe to allow the current tenants to remain until the end of their leases. Bill M recommended that the granite in the basement foundation is valuable and should be protected.

29 Nashua Street: *Each morning sees some task begun, each evening sees it close; Something attempted, something done, has earned a night's repose.*

Mike reported on the latest action concerning the purchase of 29 Nashua Street. A purchase and sales agreement was submitted to the owner, prompting, at this date, a counter offer of \$220,000 and 2 years of free rent. Mike reiterated the position of the trustees that we will not be offering an amount higher than the appraised value. An email was sent to Mike from the owner stating that she has another serious offer and has put the house on the market.

Renovation/Expansion Planning: *It takes less time to do a thing right, than it does to explain why you did it wrong.*

The steering committee met with Richard Smith of Smith and Adams Architects. Richard Smith is interested in updating and refining the design that he submitted in 2006. He made note of the changes that the trustees would like to see. The trustees looked briefly at his proposal for work that he would do. Time wasn't taken to look at this proposal at this time, saving it for the next work session on Feb 23.

Executive Session: *A single conversation across the table with a wise man is better than ten years mere study of books.*

On a motion by Mary, seconded by Sarah (unanimous vote) the trustees moved into executive session at 8:27pm. A unanimous vote, on a motion by Chris, seconded by Sarah, minutes of the executive session were sealed; and the executive session was closed.

Meeting Adjourned: *When I am getting ready to reason with a man, I spend one-third of my time thinking about myself and what I am going to say and two-thirds about him and what he is going to say.*

Meeting closed at 9:10

Mary will bring pizza to the next meeting ?

Next meeting is March 15, 2011. Food at 6:30, meeting at 7:00