

TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN
Public Library
Board of Library Trustees
Minutes of Public Meeting November 17, 2009
Meeting was held at the Provincetown Public Library, 356 Commercial Street.

Members Present: Mick Rudd, Paul Benatti, Jim Cole, Lyn Kratz, and Tom Boland

Members Absent: none

Others Present: Library Director Jan Voogd, Assistant Library Director Mary Nicolini

Call to Order: Mick Rudd called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

1. Public Statements: There were no public statements.

2. Minutes: Jim moved to accept the minutes of the October 27, 2009 BOLT Meeting as amended. Paul seconded the motion. The vote passed 5-0-0.

3. Chair's Report –

a. Let's Get it Done - The focus will be on getting out the appeal letters, contacting lapsed pledge donors, and contacting possible new donors in the community who might provide matching gifts. The second stage will be to see what grants are available to the library. The third item on the timeline will be a possible presentation to the Town Meeting in April.

4. Director's Report – Jan presented her Director's Report (please see attached below).

5. Resource Development Report –

a. Community Learning Program – This is a cooperative program between the library and the Provincetown schools where classes will be provided by the library and held at the schools.

b. Safe Harbor – There will be a showing of the film at Cape Cod Community College on November 30th. Catherine Russo will be present. The film will then be shown in town at the Art House on December 1st (World AIDS Day) followed by a contemplative walk with the PPL as a possible stop.

c. Cash Report - \$40,325 was deposited into the Library Building Fund in October 2009. Of this money, \$40,000 was gift from Marc Jacobs. Lyn stated that \$155,000 has been raised this year to date. She has been researching outstanding large denomination pledges. The Trustees discussed the end-of-year and lapsed donor pledges letters.

d. Application for Community Preservation – Lyn and the Trustees discussed the application for this grant which would provide funding to finish the restoration of the library building façade. The BOLT discussed in detail the efforts that are being made to clarify what the library currently has in each of its various accounts at Town Hall.

MOTION: Paul moved to authorize Trustee Lyn Kratz to apply to the Provincetown Community Preservation Committee for CPA funding in the amount of \$400,000 in FY 2010 to underwrite partially the historic restoration and reconstruction of the library's front façade. Jim seconded the motion. The vote passed 5-0-0.

6. Discussion of Library Rental Policy – Jan tailored a rental policy using the Town Hall rental policy as a model. The Trustees discussed the policy.

7. Other Business and Correspondence –

a. The BOLT discussed the upcoming budget request meeting with the Town Manager and the Finance Director. That meeting has been scheduled for December 3rd at 11am.

MOTION: Paul moved to approve the FY2011 Operating Budget Strategy as presented by the Library Director for submission to the Town Manager and the Finance Director. Tom seconded the motion. The vote passed 5-0-0.

8. Next BOLT Meeting – December 15th at 7:15pm at the library.

9. Adjournment: Paul moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:45pm. Mick seconded the motion. The vote passed 5-0-0.

These minutes were approved by a vote of the Provincetown Library Board of Trustees present at their meeting on _____.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Library Board of Trustees signature

Title

(Minutes prepared by Jean Jarrett)

Director's Report November 2009

This time of year brings many annual writing awards, some of which honor the best fiction of the year. Herta Muller won the Nobel Prize in Literature. Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction. The Man Booker Prize went to Hilary Mantel for Wolf Hall. 2009 Whiting Writers' Award winners for fiction were Adam Johnson, Nami Mun, Vu Tran, and Provincetown's own Fulbright Fellowship-winning Salvatore Scibona, writing coordinator at the Fine Arts Work Center. PPL has, or will get, all these exceptional books.

We will begin the new fiction discussion group with Salvatore Scibona's debut novel *The End*. It was also a finalist for the 2008 National Book Award and the Ohioana Book Award, as well as winning the New York Public Library's 2009 Young Lions Fiction Award. The fiction discussion group will be meeting at 6pm on the third Wednesday of each month, with first meeting on 18 November.

Unlike many places that languish with very little attention paid to their history, Provincetown has always had people noticing it and writing

about it. Yet, perhaps because it runs so deep, much of Provincetown's history remains undocumented, with many stories only rumors. Part of the Library's mission is to collect, organize, and make accessible the archival material from which the history of Provincetown can be discovered. To that end, I visited the Boston Athenaeum to see the Provincetown Abolition Society's Constitution and minutes, 1837-1842. It would appear that not only did Nathan Freeman donate the building for the original Provincetown library, he had himself served as a librarian for the Society. I am working with the BA's Curator of Manuscripts to see if the volume can be digitized and some version of it made available here in Provincetown.

The Library's finite space requires us to carefully select and weed those books whose better days are past. Some of these books find homes via the Book Sale run by the Friends of the Provincetown Public Library. And now, the Provincetown Public Library has partnered with Better World Books to offer our weeded material to a broader, national and international, audience.

Provincetown Community Learning Program, a cooperative venture invented and stylized by the Provincetown Public Library and the Provincetown Schools, will be a series of courses running the gamut from basic computer use to genealogy to starting a business. Class sessions will meet in the high school and the elementary school's computer labs, libraries, and classrooms, beginning in January.

Amnesty Week was Nov 8-14, 2009. Any overdue library material returned during Amnesty Week had its fine waived, with the goal being to recover much of the long-unreturned material. Results are still being assessed.

This month the Library has a trial subscription to Ancestry.com, where researchers can search military records, vital records, and ships' passenger lists, among other things.

Library Journal's Star Library Rankings. This year's Five Star winners include the Provincetown Public Library. LJ awards five, four, and three stars to the best of 7268 U.S. public libraries, with only ten five-star winners in each spending category. Provincetown is in the \$200,000-399,000 expenditure category, ranking 5th among that category's Five Star winners. The rankings are based on per capita visits, circulation, attendance, and public internet terminal use.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Voogd
Library Director