

WPL TRUSTEES MEETING

16 October

5:00 – 6:45

In attendance: Trustees Kate White and Adele Wick (Co-Chairs), Dick Fralick (Treasurer), Dale Rockefeller and Julie Gilston; Acting Director Denise Grimse

Absent: Tracey Graffam (Secretary) and Abby Rockefeller

1. The meeting began with a discussion of minutes. Those from August 14 and 21 were approved; Adele agreed to look for any from September 11 and September 20.
2. The Acting Director's report included handouts of the newly revised Circulation Policy and Contact Numbers, a 2007 Budget Worksheet, financial and circulation data, and verbal accounts of programs and other activities in September. The major event was the replacement of moldy carpet with linoleum tiles in the Children's Room, a project master-minded by Julie and carried out with the hard physical labor of all the staff and several community members. Addressing our temporary storage needs, several patrons carted home and returned cartons of books. The community really came together on this one!

Alas, the improved floor makes the ceiling look all the more appalling. Happily, the Greenland Women's Club has pledged \$200 to the replacement or clean-up of the 39 light panels in various states of disarray; it appears they can get a discount at Home Depot. Meantime, John Sacramo can handle light and ballast [what the heck am I talking about here?]. Julie has already written thank-you notes to Portsmouth Quality Flooring and B&C Moving. Who else should be thanked?

3. Upcoming events include the Halloween Party, help for which is already all set; repair of the next chair; and the Building Committee meeting on 23 October at 7 p.m.
4. New Business included discussion of a patron's complaint of apparent misuse of IM'ing in the Children's Room. No action was taken.
5. Selectmen Mo Sodini, Paul Sanderson and Dan Kern and Town Manager Karen Anderson arrived at 6:00 to discuss the library budget and building needs/dreams.

For the former, Kate White set the context by observing that ours is now a smaller library than it was this time last year, with fewer hours, lower circulation, reduced programming (for which most attendees come from outside Greenland), and an exhausted Acting Director. We're reluctant to go forth with advertising for and hiring a new Assistant or Associate Director, because one-third through the year, the Town may not approve the budget to support such a position. Our special guests assured us that proper packaging would secure proper funding. In particular, Karen said that we should raise salaries and employee contributions while cutting paid vacation time. The whole package can stay

the same, but it will look more comparable to how School and Town employees are remunerated.

For the later, Building Committee trustee representative Dale Rockefeller noted that, on balance, we are not “good to go” in proposing expansion at the next town meeting: we still have a couple of loose ends. Paul suggested requesting the establishment of a capital fund for the expansion, and adding to this fund on an annual basis. Adele suggested that funding the expansion through a bond meant that the Town paid on an annual basis that began only when the construction began; she was again reminded of the importance of the look and feel of the thing (“framing”, in economic analysis).

Meantime, the \$50,000 approved at the 2006 Town Meeting is funding a Underwood engineering study to evaluate eliminating the stretch of road between the church and the library, replacing that fork with a stop sign. With all the space that would then be created, the parish house could be moved near the church, and more land would open up for an expanded library. The town could also “take” the property out back from its private owners for the public good. Sidewalks could connect the town hall, church buildings, library and school. Paul acceded to Adele’s request to research any legal restrictions to selling the parish house or ceasing to use the WPL as a library.

Respectfully submitted,
Adele Wick, Acting Secretary