

Minutes of the Amherst Library Trustee Meeting
September 15, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM by Nancy Baker. Also attending were Kathy Brundage, William Cassidy, Robin Julian, Ted Krantz, Nancy Head, Library Director, Amy Lapointe and Alternates Dick Martini.

Guests: Craig Fraley, Recreation Dept. Director and Tom Mortimer

The minutes of the August meeting were unanimously approved.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- **Statistics:** Amy passed out the monthly statistics. Numbers have been low. Circulation is down 13%, website visits are down 15%. Amy is meeting with the door counter vendor regarding calibration. Possible reasons for low website numbers: (a) people are downloading ebooks directly from Overdrive, not via the website, (b) links in the email newsletter to sign up for programs go directly to the calendar, (c) construction in center of town.
 - **Programs:** Upcoming programs include An Alaska Wilderness Canoe Journey, The Social Black Bear: What Bears Have Taught Me About Being Human, and An Evening with Edgar Allen Poe.
 - The Fall Newsletter will be ready soon. This year it will be distributed by the USPS new service "Every Door Direct" for \$0.17 apiece.
 - **Meeting Rooms:** Amy spoke with Maggie Paul about the community using some of the school spaces for meeting groups. They are working together to coordinate a list of town meeting spaces.
 - **Town:** Strategic plan presentation for the library will be 9/22 @6:30pm. Other departments presenting will police, community development, and recreation.
 - **Circulation:** The self-service hold shelf is working very well. Patrons like it very much.
 - **Collection:** The Young Adult collection is very well used, and the space is bursting at the seams. The staff are currently changing the layout of the area to improve the look and allow for more face out titles, etc. Macmillan ebooks are now available through 3M and Overdrive. The cost will be about \$60 (new HC titles) and expire after 52 cko or 2 years, whichever comes first.
- Some interesting statistics regarding other publisher's ebook pricing:
Random House adult titles are \$78-84/copy, no expiration.
Penguin titles are \$20-30/copy, 1 year expiration.
HarperCollins titles are \$20-30/copy, 26 licenses (checkouts).
Scholastic titles are \$5-18/copy, 2 year expiration.
Other publishers like Harlequin and Kensington, etc. have "normal" pricing and no expiration dates.
- **Staff:** Amy recommended that we hire Shannon Daniels (current PTA president) and Mary Milliken (former staff member who had stepped down after moving to MA) to replace Vicki Dursy and Katie Graybill. Robin moved that we hire them, and Kathy seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

- **Friends of the Library:** The picture hanging rails, gifted to the library by the FOL are being used for the current professional art display. The Book Sale grossed \$8853.00. Nancy H. noted that there were not as many books this year. She particularly noticed a lack of new/latest novels.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

While the YTD expenditures are a little more than budgeted, they will even out by end of fiscal year. The Vanguard fund is doing very well.

Gifts: The library received \$3254.90 from the Friends of the Library for the remainder of the media pouches. Robin moved to approve this gift, Bill seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

Building and Grounds: nothing new to report

Technology: nothing new to report

Program: nothing new to report

OLD BUSINESS:

Space Planning:

- **Canopy tops to the book shelves:** Nancy H. moved that we purchase them, Bill seconded, Ted abstained, with all others approving the motion. Motion passed.
- **Light Fixtures:** Robin and Kathy visited Milford lighting. There are no 100W or 150W LED bulbs. Should we wait for the technology to improve? Robin picked out a few designs which she will share via email. We need to match pick a style that will handle the amount of lumens needed. It has been difficult to find a suitable product.
- **Lounge Chairs:** Dana Boudreau, Account Manager at Creative Office Pavilion, and a Trinity Furniture Representative visited to discussed chairs. Kathy is working on getting an appointment at a site in Woburn where we can see actual examples of the chairs.

Mineral Collection/Recreation Dept status update:

Craig Fraley, Recreation Dept. Director, told the Trustees that PMEC /Rec Dept. is very interested and enthusiastic in hosting the mineral collection. PMEC already holds a lot of rock and mineral classes for the schools. PMEC needs to look into appropriate casing/display. Under the terms of the gift of the collection to the library, we will have to loan, not give, the mineral collection to the recreation department. We need to have the collection appraised for insurance purposes. The last appraisal was done on January 30, 1986 by the Brazosport Museum of Natural Sciences in Lake Jackson, TX. The value of the 325 +/- specimens was \$5,448.35. Almost all specimens are labeled. Tom Mortimer can approach a few reputable people to take the 1986 appraisal and give a reasonable current value.

Tom gave Craig a copy of his drawing for a display case/storage unit. It features a glass structure above, with storage cabinet below. Tom carefully calculated the size of the cabinet based on the dimensions of the specimens on the master list and added some extra space for future acquisitions. Tom send an inquiry to SHS about having some students catalog the collection, generate labels, provide chemical composition information, etc. for the display. Nancy B. asked if there were any special considerations for safely moving

the collection. Tom said that while there are dozens of delicate specimens, most are well packed, so it should be no problem.

Robin moved that we loan the mineral collection on a permanent basis to the Recreation Dept. for public display at PMEC, Bill seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

The Recreation Committee must still approve the loan. They will discuss at their next meeting in two weeks. It was suggested that a plaque acknowledging the library and Donald Fairchild Eger for providing the collection would be nice to add to the case.

The library and the recreation dept. will work together to find funding for building the case.

→ See Appendix: Ruslyn Vear's research on the mineral collection gift to the library

NEW BUSINESS:

Annual Performance Review for Library Director:

Nancy B. spearheaded this effort. She spoke with 3 dept. heads, staff, and trustees. Dwight Brew, Bruce Berry and Jim O'Mara (never responded) were also contacted.

Clock repair: John Anderson will repair wooden portion. He may also be able to get the movement working, but that is not his area of expertise.

Honoring Don Holden and Helen Rowe:

In addition to honoring them at the Boardman concert the trustees felt a new bench in the entry way would be a nice way to thank Don and Helen for all their years of service as trustees. Bill motioned that we purchase a bench in honor in Don and Helen, Kathy seconded and the motion was unanimously approved. Kathy will email the board with details on the cost and expected delivery date.

Nancy H. moved that we authorize up to \$1000 for a bench and plaque, Ted seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Ayers, Secretary

The next meeting is October 27th at 6:00 PM.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

September 22nd cookies for DPW, drop off anytime.

September 30th Staff meeting → bring refreshments at 8:15am.

The September 15, 2014 meeting minutes were unanimously approved on October 27, 2014 with the following correction: Only Robin went to Milford Lighting, not Kathy.

APPENDIX

HISTORY AND SURROUNDING INFORMATION ON THE MINERAL COLLECTION OWNED BY THE AMHERST TOWN LIBRARY

- The mineral collection **belonged to Donald Fairchild Eger**. Donald F. Eger died on March 16, 1985.
- Per conversation March 17, 2014 with Susan Eger [wife of Donald F. Eger's brother Erich F. Eger] Donald was about 24 years old and died in Texas due to an "accident."
- His father, **Donald Theodor Eger, donated** the collection to the Amherst Town Library in March, 1986.
- The collection was valued at **\$5,448.35** on **January 30, 1986** by the Curator of Minerals, Rick Shaw, at the Brazosport Museum of Natural Science in Lake Jackson, Texas.
- The inventory provided by Rick Shaw states **325 specimens** in the collection contained in **13 boxes** currently stored at the Amherst Town Library. The specimens were individually measured and personally examined. Each specimen has been wrapped and numbered according to correspond with the master list.
- Donald F. Eger's obituary appeared in the Thursday, March 21, 1985 edition of *The Milford (N.H.) Cabinet and Wilton Journal* and the Sunday, March 24, 1985 edition of *The Brazosport Facts* (TX). At the time of his death, Donald was 24 years old and living in Freeport, TX. He was born in Florida, resided 10 years in Amherst and lived several years in Texas. He attended Amherst and Milford schools. He was the founder and Vice President of Computer Novelty Corporation in Freeport. He died in Livingston, TX.
- Donald Theodor Eger (father of Donald F. Eger) died on August 14, 2000 (at age 66) at Southern New Hampshire Medical Center in Nashua, NH. He was born in Detroit, Michigan and lived in Florida; Lake Jackson, TX; and for periods of time lived in Amherst, Greenville, and Merrimack, NH. He worked at the former Sanders in the late 1960s and early 70s and his son, Donald F. Eger, attended Amherst elementary schools at that time (per Susan Eger). Then, the family moved to Texas until the 1980s. After being in Texas, Donald T. Eger moved back to NH area.
- Beverly Fairchild Eger (mother of Donald F. Eger) was divorced from Donald Theodor Eger in 1982. Born in 1933 in Detroit, Michigan, Beverly died on September 6, 2000 (at age 66) in Lake Jackson, Texas. Beverly F. Eger worked as a teacher in New Hampshire, Florida, and Texas for more than 35 years.
- Erich F. Eger, brother of Donald F. Eger, died on September 12, 2012 (at age 49) in Milford, NH. Erich had lived in the Nashua/Merrimack area for over 25 years, previously residing in Lake Jackson, TX. He was educated in the TX school system, graduating from Brazoswood High School, Class of 1982. He worked as a Machinist for BAE Systems in Merrimack, NH.
- Donald Theodor Eger and Beverly Fairchild Eger had 4 sons: Donald F. Eger (deceased); Erich F. Eger (deceased); Theodor E. Eger (status unknown); and, Douglas Eger currently living at 326 Windward Dr., League City, TX (phone # (281) 538-0062) per

Reference USA database. Susan Eger, widow of Erich F. Eger, currently lives at 26 Lamson Dr. in Merrimack, NH (603) 883-1831.

- The Mineral Collection was brought to current light when Tom Mortimer (Amherst resident) asked me (Ruslyn Vear, Head of Reference and Adult Programming at the Amherst Town Library) whether the mineral collection was still in our possession. Tom had made contact with the Amherst Town Library Board of Trustees to propose a design for a display case for the collection (at the time of the donation in 1986). The ideas for the collection to be exhibited within the Library at that time (1980s) were “tabled” and future consideration did not occur. The collection has remained in storage, in original boxes, at the Amherst Town Library and is in the original donation condition.
- Tom Mortimer has been actively collecting New England minerals for almost 40 years. He is a collector and retired electrical engineer. He was an active member of the Nashua Mineral Society from 1974 until its disbandment in 2010, and the Micromounters of New England since 1984. His other interest is woodworking and his hobbies have converged in his New Hampshire Mineral Species Display project <http://www.mindatnh.org/> He may be contacted at (603) 673-4039.

Research provided by Ruslyn Vear, Head of Reference and Adult Programming at Amherst Town Library, Amherst, NH, on September, 10, 2014