BANCROFT MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

September 28, 2020

The Meeting was called to order at 3:47 p.m.  Present were Trustees Katherine Wright, Nancy Verdolino and Fred Oldfield (Chair), Director Robyn York, and Hopedale Cable Access which recorded the meeting.  The participants held the meeting live via a pre-scheduled Zoom Meeting (https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71506006894?pwd=TDM5UGZLWno3V2t1SW5VTjE1U3haQT09).

The minutes from the meetings on July 9, 2020 and September 14, 2020 were read and accepted with clarifications.

The Director explained that she put together a packet of recent relevant emails that Statue of Hope conservator Louise Freedman had sent to her.  (Background: Statue was not covered during the winter of 2019-20 due to the newly redesigned covering not being finished).  In May 2019 Louise said the “sacrificial” mortar on the Plaza needed to be redone immediately. Note that in 2016 the mortar was last done (although Louise keeps referencing 2014 [it wasn’t done then because we couldn’t get money]). The last time before that was in 2007.  In 2019 Louise was told by Robyn Yorik the Director, that the Town did not appropriate the money so it cannot be done until 2020.  Lengthy discussion ensued regarding Louise’s phone conversation with and email to the Director requesting a $2,000 cancellation fee, said amount to be applied to future work she performs for us. The Director will send Louise an email (copying the Trustees) reminding Louise that we never had a contract with her, so a cancellation fee is moot, and the job cannot be done now due to weather and temperature concerns in addition to financial concerns.  The Director will request a proposed budget for the project from Louise, letting her know that if the proposal is over $10,000 the job will need to go out to bid.   She will be requested to plan to do it next spring and summer 2021 because it does need to be done.  The Director will go to try to get the money in May from the Town meeting.  If the Trustees cannot get the money from the Town meeting and we plan to engage Louise for $8,000, then we have to commit to finding money from donations (which has $6,000); the Library donations account has $22,000. We really need to push to get the costs of caring for the Statue of Hope off the Library budget - it was given to the Town, not the Library.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted unanimously to move forward to secure Louise Freedman to do the repair work as described in her proposal of 2014.  The trustees will attempt to get monies for the care of the Statue of Hope from the Town as a separate line item, and if that doesn't happen as timely as we like we will use the money from donations that had been earmarked for the Statue and if necessary other donation sources, not to exceed $9,000.

As additional background: note that to repair the broken finial has cost $3,700 to Louise and D&S. The faulty design of the covering is the direct cause of the finial being broken off during the past winter.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Wright