

JACOB EDWARDS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

SOUTHBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 01550

TRUSTEES MEETING

Sept. 23, 1975

The meeting was held at 12:00 noon in the Pioppi Room of the Library.

Those present were: Chairman Robert Muenzberg  
Mr. T. Lewis  
Mr. A. DiGregorio  
Mr. R. Lenti  
Mrs. Pioppi  
Mrs. King - Librarian

The minutes were read by King and approved.

The Treasurer's report was deferred in the absence of Mr. Dumas. Relative to budget King expressed concern regarding possible legislation cutting State Aid to Public Libraries.

Muenzberg read a thank you letter from Ellsworth D. Mitchell, Trustee Emeritis.

Old business.

1. The draperies estimate from Wellington Curtain Co., Inc. at 572.83 was read. Mr. Muenzberg asked the Librarian to submit it to the purchasing agent for bidding.

2. Lewis requested that a new vacuum cleaner be put into the 1977 budget.

3. Muenzberg recommended a 1977 budget item against eventual carpet replacement.

4. King asked for permission to request the DPW to paint the remaining stack areas and to assist with whatever study room arrangements the Trustees approve in the fifth stack. Granted.

5. Lenti reported no more infestation of the stuffed animal collection.

New business.

Seaver Rice, Vincent Walsh and Arthur Arpin representing the Southbridge Historical Commission and the Southbridge Bicentennial Commission joined the meeting, presenting a proposal (attached) asking the Trustees to designate the present history room as a permanent Historical Room. Rice voiced his objection to the phrase "to be used for no other purpose" but wanted to be assured that a place would be retained for local history. Muenzberg objected to any possibility of using the library as a museum and said it is already an archives. Lenti reminded

that the former Memorial Hall in the Town Hall was private, therefore later eliminated & questioned exclusivity of any space for a particular purpose in the library. Muenzberg expressed the wish to keep all space multi-purpose to meet the changing need of the future. He asked why a formal request is needed for a service that already exists. Arpin replied that the Commission wants to apply for matching funds to restore historical materials and buy new furniture to house them. Lewis asked if any other space exists for a historical collection. Walsh suggested there may be in the Town Hall. Lenti remarked that a future Civic Center might be appropriate, Pioppi suggested the Board issue a statement that the Commission can use in obtaining a grant. Muenzberg said we have since 1967 used space & resources to preserve and protect local history media, but nothing can be designated as permanent, although the intentions of the Board as revealed by its policy are to retain such media. King read items 1 and 7 of the Library objectives (1973) which relate to this subject. The Trustees took the request under advisement and ended the discussion by giving the Commission their full support in their search for funds to conserve historical materials.

King asked for a decision regarding disposition, conservation and insurance against theft of various articles in the library. Muenzberg is investigating-The issue was tabled until October.

King asked for funds to hire a technician to duplicate records on cassette. Muenzberg moved and Pioppi seconded motion to permit the expenditure of not over \$100. It was voted.

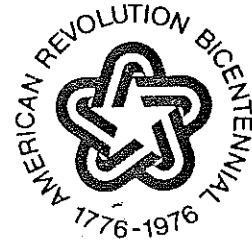
Muenzberg announced King will be on vacation for the month of October. King will ask Mrs. Petrelli to attend the October 28 meeting.

Meeting was adjourned.

Barbara R.King  
(Sec., pro-tem)

# bicentennial commission town of southbridge

Town Hall  
41 Elm Street  
Southbridge, MA 01550



September 23, 1975

The Southbridge Bicentennial Commission, in conjunction with the Southbridge Historical Commission, would like to request of the Edwards Memorial Library Trustees the official designation of the present History Room as a Historical Room.

The purpose of this is to develop a permanent area within the Library for the use, display, and storage of books and other materials, many of which would be unique to the history of Southbridge and the state of Massachusetts. To do this, materials will have to be collected, systematically catalogued and some repaired so that they are easily accessible to the public under careful guidance by the professional staff. Before this work can commence, a room must be set aside and prepared for receiving this collection. In making such a designation it should be understood that this room should be used for no purpose other than the collecting of historical materials.

At the present time neither the Southbridge Historical Commission or Historical Society have display areas nor storage facilities. The Southbridge Historical Room project will provide this facility. Local and state histories, pictures, memorabilia, documents, etc. will be collected. Under the Massachusetts Bicentennial Matching grants program, it may be possible to add on to the existing facilities in the room. If the Southbridge Historical Room project is completed, the town and surrounding communities as well as researchers from outside the area will have a ready source of historical information and will be able to use that source as they see fit.

JACOB EDWARDS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

TRUSTEES MEETING

October 28, 1975

The meeting was held at 12:00 noon in the Pioppi Room of the Library.

Those present were: Chairman Robert Muenzberg  
Mrs. Pioppi  
Mr. T. Lewis  
Mr. D. Dumas  
Mr. A. DiGregorio  
Mrs. Petrelli  
Mr. J. O'Shaughnessy - Secretary

The Secretary pro-temp's report of September meeting was read and accepted.

The Treasurer's report was read and accepted.

Old business.

Repairing of clock will cost about \$350.00, clock is specified to be a gift to the Library. There is a possibility of making arrangements with Old Sturbridge Village involving a desk called Federalist breakfront in exchange for clock repairs.

A painting of Globe Village may possibly be loaned to Old Sturbridge Village.

New business.

The Secretary is to report to the Merchants Bank and send them a copy of February 22, 1972 plan of future development of Library.

The Chairman brought up the possibility of making an access to the Library for the handicapped. However, we do not have the necessary money at the present time in spite of possible matching funds.

Mr. Lewis says they are still studying the study booth area and they will report at our next meeting. He further stated that the children's room and everything else has been cleaned up.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10.

John J. O'Shaughnessy  
Secretary

JACOB EDWARDS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

TRUSTEES MEETING

November 25, 1975

The meeting was held at 12:00 noon in the Pioppi Room of the Library.

Those present were: Chairman Robert Muenzberg  
Mrs. Pioppi  
Mr. D. Dumas Mr. DiGregorio  
Mr. Lewis  
Mr. Lenti  
Mrs. King, the librarian  
Mr. John J. O'Shaughnessy, secretary

The Secretary's report was read and accepted as read.

The Treasurer's report was read and accepted as read.

Building Committee Report

Mr. Lenti advised us that he has met with Armand DeAngelis, the building inspector, and discussed with him the matter of getting more space in the upper reaches of the library for a quiet study area for students. He further reported that a more comprehensive evaluation of this situation was to be made at the next meeting which would be this one.

Old Business for Building Committee

It was reported that the question of finishing the painting by the stacks in Area 4 would be hopefully taken care of by the help of the CETA employees while they are still available for service in the community.

The librarian reported that the sum of \$220.00, which was the balance of the treasury of the now defunct Southbridge Young Women's Club was offered to be made available to the library for a capitol use. Mrs. Pioppi moved, and it was seconded and voted that the additional necessary funds be taken from the trust account to pay for new curtains for the library and this be applied to the gift from the Southbridge Young Women's Club treasury of \$220.00 and that an expression of thanks be sent to the Young Women's Club for their generous gift.

The children's librarians' desk situation is progressing and that perhaps a favorable report can be given at this time.

Mr. DiGregorio gave an interesting report on the Massachusetts Library Trustees Association Meeting which he attended as a member of that organization, and the general feeling was that the activities as carried out by Library Trustees in other libraries

*Also on Board of Directors of MLTA*

throughout the area are matched pretty closely by those of the Jacob Edwards Memorial Library, except for the possible exception of the fact that apparently in the Fitchburg Library the trustees and the staff meet together from time to time in a more informal type gathering which might be classified under the heading of "fun and games", a further explanation of this might be forthcoming later.

The Secretary reported that the proposed benefaction from unknown former residents, now living in the New York City area, has now been formalized to the extent that the wishes of the library be incorporated in the trust agreement being made up by Attorney Fleming of New York, counsel for the unknown benefactors and at this point the identity of our donors is not known although the identity of the members of the library trustees is well known to them. The general provisions of the trust will read that the donation of funds from the New York people will go directly to the trustees of the library, whoever they may be at any given time and will be designated to be used and expended for capital investments of the library.

There followed a lengthy discussion on the pros and cons of the formation of a "Friends" group for the library.

The librarian then reported that we have made a gift to the New England Historical Society of the Newhall Collection of books, which was of interest to them but was not in great demand at the library, and for this gift we have received a thank you note. She further reports that the Pioppi room has been used by the Garden Club, which meets here regularly. Mrs. King further reported that the Exchange Club has donated money to re-dedicate certain plaques in the library and that this dedication will be made on December 3rd at ten a.m. Mrs. King further requests that the building and equipment items for the 1976 budget be submitted and in the course of the discussion Mr. DiGregorio suggests that a new rug as a separate item in the budget and also a further separate capital item for air conditioning be included.

#### PERSONNEL

There ensued a lengthy discussion about the CETA replacements and what image they are creating at the front desk. There is a general consensus that it was not good and that something should be done to correct this.

Mrs. King reports that the Optical Information Center is working out well and among the projects to be pursued in the future include glass making and that lectures at the high school will be given and then the displays will be shown here at the library.

#### SMOKING

It was decided after a short discussion that the leader of the group that was using the room should guide them and restrict as far as possible smoking during the use of the room.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45.

Secretary

John J. O'Shaughnessy

JACOB EDWARDS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

TRUSTEES MEETING

December 23, 1975

The Meeting was held at 12:00 noon in the Pioppi Room of the Library.

Those present were: Chairman Robert Muenzberg  
Mrs. Pioppi  
Mr. Lenti  
Mr. Lewis  
Mr. D. Dumas  
Mr. DiGregorio  
Mrs. Barbara King, librarian  
John J. O'Shaughnessy, secretary

The Secretary's report was read and accepted as read.

The Treasurer's report was read and accepted as read.

Building Committee Report

It was reported that the floor that was in question is now found to be adequate at 16" thick. Fire escapes, it was noted, may be put in "gratis". No figures as yet for the proposed renovations. Mrs. King, librarian, and Mr. Lenti agree that they will continue CETA probably through April.

Treasurer goes over the budget and states that the Trustees' reserve account, which is held locally, is now over \$10,000.00. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding air conditioning and carpeting. It was decided that an engineering fee should be requested regarding the air conditioning and then consideration will be given to certain top-priority room requests. It was also decided that the carpeting should be acquired from an institutional carpeting company located out of town. The Treasurer was complimented for such excellent preparation of the budget.

Librarian's Report

The librarian discusses the Regional report and the possibility of Southbridge being offered as a subregion. It appears that if so, we would need a larger plant. The area, in that case, would probably be Southern Worcester County and the area west to Springfield would have to feel out the other eleven towns. Grant money would cover salaries. Such expansion would greatly



increase the facilities that would be available for the use of the tri-community area. The request will be made after Mrs. King has done the preliminary planning sometime before the deadline of January 30, 1976.

The Christmas party will be held tomorrow, the 24th, as scheduled. Volunteers will be recognized at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40.

Secretary,

John J. O'Shaughnessy