

Freetown Board of Library Trustees
Minutes of the Monday, September 23, 2013 Meeting
Guilford H. Hathaway Library, Assonet, Mass.

Present: Irene Ashley, Vince Kyne, Mike McCue, and Lucille Rosa.

Absent: Christine Paiva and Dick Spencer.

Also Present: Dorothy Stanley-Ballard (Library Director), Mary Rezendes-Brown (Historical Commission), Betty Elsner, Bob Elsner, and Wendy Elsner.

Call to order: Chairman Lucille Rosa called the meeting to order at 5:30p.

Hathaway Library

The purpose of this meeting was to attempt to resolve a disagreement over the color scheme of library, which was being changed to grey with off-white trim after many years of being all white. The east side, and a portion of the north side, of the building had been painted this morning, prompting concerns from the Historical Commission over the colors chosen. The Trustees were asked to reconsider the color scheme, and since the colors were the result of a standing decision of the Trustees, work was halted for the day until a quorum could be called together to hear comments. The Board of Selectmen requested that any discussion take place this same day as the work crew was expected back Tuesday.

Mrs. Rezendes-Brown addressed the concerns of the Historical Commission. They felt that as the library, town hall, and schoolhouse had all been white for many years, changing the color of one could create imbalance amongst the three, and could have an impact on future painting of the schoolhouse. Mr. Kyne asked when the schoolhouse would be painted. Mrs. Rezendes-Brown stated it would not be in the immediate future.

Discussion was held on the different colors of the building throughout its history. Dr. Elsner stated that throughout her life of ninety years, she remembered it only as white. Mrs. Stanley-Ballard referenced a photo showing the building as a greyish color with whitish trim. Mr. McCue identified the wooden World War I Memorial on the lawn of the library, and noted that it had been replaced around 1930 by the stone memorial at the Four Corners. It was also acknowledged that the library was originally a yellowish color with a greenish trim. Mr. Kyne identified some light bluish colors on the building itself, and a clapboard removed was stenciled on the back with the original maker's mark.

Mrs. Rosa asked for a motion. A motion was made by Mrs. Ashley, seconded by Mr. McCue, to resume painting the library with the grey/off-white color scheme. Discussion then continued. All agreed that the most important thing was that the library was being painting. All felt that the library building could use additional attention and repairs. Both the Library Trustees and the Historical Commission will work together in the future to press for preventative maintenance as needed. Mrs. Rosa called the vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made by Mr. McCue, seconded by Mrs. Ashley, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:10p.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: _____
Michael T. McCue