

DOROTHY ALLING MEMORIAL LIBRARY

SPECIAL TRUSTEE COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 28, 2017

UNAPPROVED

Present: Karla Karstens, Steve Perkins, Jeff Dannies, Barbara Mieder; librarian Marti Fiske

Purpose: To review a citizen request for consideration: *Seven Days* newspaper

- The *ad hoc* committee of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 5 p.m.
- Marti explained the history of the complaint:
The process of following up on a request to remove an item from the library was explained to the complainant when the request was received. The complainant then completed the “Citizen’s Request for Reconsideration of Material” form which was then passed on to the *ad hoc* committee. Section 9 of the request form asks “What would you prefer the library do about this work?” and the complainant indicated two preferences: “Do not lend it to my child” and “Withdraw it from all readers.”
- Marti and the committee reviewed the library’s policy in regard to “reconsideration of materials.”
- The committee discussed how *Seven Days* provides free newspaper access to community members and how it has become the primary source for information on area arts, community events, in-depth reporting of area news, politics for Chittenden County and the Vermont legislature, classified of all types including housing, items for sale, and jobs.
- The Trustees inquired where copies of *Seven Days* were located in the library, and learned that they are available in four locations: the adult reading room, in a stack by the copier in the lobby, in the “living room” on the shelf with parenting materials, and past issues are with the periodicals in the adult reading room.

Recommendation of the committee: The *ad hoc* committee decided to recommend to the full Board of Trustees that no action should be taken in the way the library provides access to newspapers.