

End of construction in sight, library trustees breathe sigh of relief

By Kevin Mullaney

BANNER STAFF

PROVINCETOWN — The board of library trustees held its first meeting after the town elections and is looking forward to beginning a new chapter — not necessarily because it has a new member but because it has been set free from the task of fundraising for and coordinating the completion of the historic restoration and construction of the library building.

The public library moved into the old Heritage Museum building in 2005, after two years of construction, and in July of this year the entire structure will be completed. The landscaping will be completed in August.

"It's going to be pretty exciting," said Lyn Kratz, a former librarian at the University of Pennsylvania who was first elected to the board in 2007. Kratz was chosen as chair of the trustees at the annual reorganization. "The building progress is exciting, especially seeing what's happening downstairs," she

said, referring to the new, formerly unused space in the basement.

Kratz takes over as chair from Edward "Mick" Rudd, who joined the board in 2005 and had served in that seat since 2006. Rudd was reelected to a three-year term on the board in the May 3 election. Nancy Sirvent was elected to her first term, also for three years. Patricia Greene joined the board last fall, when longtime member Jim Cole died, and was elected to the two-year seat in May. Tom Boland is the fifth member. His and Kratz's terms expire next May.

"It's a pretty exciting time to me, as a librarian, to think of the library itself instead of the building," said Kratz. "Now we can take a deep breath and have a new focus. It'll be great to get the building to now serve community the way it should. We're chomping at the bit."

Kratz said the board is going to review the goals and objectives that were established when the library moved in 2005.

"We're at a juncture for the trustees," said Rudd, who is now the board secretary. "We've been so absorbed for the last decade, operating as a building committee, and now we've raised all the money and completely finished the building project."

"We took a great big sigh of relief," Rudd said of the vote at Town Meeting that gave the library the funds to complete the restoration. "We're going through more than a simple reorganization. We're also reorganizing our priorities and goals," he said, adding that the trustees will still need to raise money to pay off the 2003 construction loan given to them by the town, a \$770,000 loan that costs \$65,000 a year.

"I'm the new kid," said Nancy Sirvent, a longtime volunteer who was elected to the board in May. "I've realized that, although I've been involved, being on the board is a new perspective. I need to do a lot of listening, and integrate my other experiences."

Upcoming event

Pirate party raises funds for Schooner Regatta



PHOTO DAVID MURPHY

Local pirates show off their style during last year's Schooner Regatta.

What is it? The public is invited to a pirate-themed costume party and fundraiser to benefit the Great Provincetown Schooner Regatta

When is it? 6 p.m. Thursday, June 9, at the Harbor Lounge, 359 Commercial St., Provincetown.

More information: Eye patches, striped shirts, velvet jackets and leather boots will be the preferred attire for the evening, which boasts appetizers, pirate grog and m'aaargh'aritas from the galley. There will be prizes for best costume. A scavenger hunt begins at the Harbor Lounge at 5 p.m. E-

mail info@provincetownchoonerrace.com for more information.

Background: The Great Provincetown Schooner Regatta is an eight-day celebration of Provincetown's maritime history held the week after Labor Day. Now in its 10th year, the regatta includes a schooner race from Gloucester, a Rhodes 19 series, a Cat Boat Race and concludes with the all-vessels-welcome Long Point Schooner & Yacht Race at noon on Saturday, Sept. 10. Visit www.provincetownchoonerrace.com for the event's full schedule.

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