

**Minutes, 138th ANNUAL MEETING
Rutland Free Library Association
5:15 PM Wednesday, October 16, 2024**

President Barry Cohen welcomed all to the 138th Annual Meeting of the Rutland Free Library Association and called the meeting to order.

Secretary Clare Coppock presented the minutes of the 137th meeting. Darby Gorham moved to approve and Casey Palumbo seconded. The motion passed.

Barry presented the Financial report for FY 24. The library is operating within the budget with income of 98% of the budget amount, even though there was no major fundraiser. Expenses were only 1% over budget. Our overall balance improved due to strong performance of our investment accounts. Amy moved to accept the financial report and Janet Clapp seconded. The motion carried.

Barry gave the President's report. He thanked the departing board members and welcomed the new members to the board. He stated that the Rutland Free Library was well positioned for the coming year. During his tenure the library had explored several different options for moves and/or renovations. Even though the library did not receive the US Treasury Capital Projects Grant we still need to investigate ways to make the library the best that it can be. There is a bequest pending which could help with these efforts.

Next Barry introduced a motion: Shall the Association grant an exemption to the six-year term limit to Board Trustee and Secretary Clare Coppock and extend her eligibility for an additional term? Matt O made the motion and Amy seconded. The motion carried.

Director Randal Smathers reported that for the first time in his 11-year tenure the library is fully staffed. He acknowledged that the building continues to be a challenge. Problems frequently arise and are dealt with in a piecemeal fashion. The library needs to find a more permanent solution.

Randal presented the departing board members in attendance with thanks for their contribution and a gift hidden inside a carved out book.

Five new members were introduced to become trustees of the library: Ann Bannister, Kevin Klammer, Leonard DeLorenzo, Cathy Solsaa, and Cathy Reynolds. Randal moved and Amy seconded to accept the new board members. The board voted unanimously to accept the new members. Cathy R will officially be a voting member in November, after she meets the 30-day association membership requirement.

Barry adjourned the meeting at 5:18 PM