

# **RUTLAND FREE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

## **February 17, 2021**

### **Zoom Meeting**

**Attending:** Jennifer Bagley \_X\_; Chris Booth \_X\_; Barry Cohen \_X\_; Clare Coppock \_X\_; Sharon Courcelle \_X\_; Anita Duch \_X\_; Sherri Durgin-Campbell \_A\_; Allyn Kahle \_X\_; William Notte \_X\_; Ed Ogorzalek \_X\_; Catherine Picon \_X\_; Stephanie Romeo \_X\_; Olivia Tipton \_X\_; Nancy Wennberg \_X\_; Randal Smathers \_X\_; Amy Williams \_X\_ (X is present, A is absent)

Presiding: \_\_ Sharon Courcell \_\_\_\_ Secretary: \_\_ Clare Coppock \_\_\_\_

**Agenda Addition(s):** None

**Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:** Will moved, Nancy seconded and the 1/20/21 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

**Financials (report and committee):** Barry presented the financials for January which continue to be “steady state”. The operational income is at 59% of the yearly budget, with expenses at 54% of budget. The year is 58% through, showing the budget the library has made is being followed as expected. The library did add 12 new members outside of the contributing towns. Nancy moved to accept the budget as presented, Will seconded and it was approved unanimously.

#### **Director & Assistant Director Updates:**

**Randal:** Dolly Parton Imagination Library, (DPIL) which offers a free book per month to children from birth to 5 years, is now up and running. The plan is to offer this program to the 5 RFL towns during town meeting, and expectation is for it to grow. 3-4 kids have been signed up as a test to help work out the kinks. A separate account has been set up to manage the finances outside of the RFL budget.

-Randal has spent lots of time speaking to community members, mayoral candidates, businesses, service organizations, CEDRR, and other outreach work. Responses have generally been very positive. A generous offer was made by the school system for an IT specialist to transfer/set up WIFI at the new location

-am working with GSK to get air conditioner back up and running.

-Randal gave Kudos to the Development Committee for the great work getting Alison Bechdel on a zoom call with RHS students...a great opportunity for connection with the LGBTQ community, and the great interview/exchange with Big Lenny and Uncle Dave, available on the RFL website.

-the amount of books being shared with the Catamount loan system is becoming quite cumbersome. Right now RFL loans a 60/40 split, with 800+ items having been loaned out last month. With the volume, finding a home in the current space will be an issue as we are running out of room in the offices to handle. The “cost” of this program also relies heavily on RFL, as it was originally set up to accommodate one tote daily, and RFL has been consistently needing 4-5 totes daily, and must pay for these extra totes. Janet is on the Catamount Board, and hopefully will be able to help address this disparity.

**Amy:** this is the “Year of Transition”. Jennifer and Allyn will be presenting the DPIL at Town Meetings. Cathy Reynolds has gotten things set up for Tinmouth.

-the consortium is discussing changing the catalog interface

-the grant application has been submitted for the summer reading program

-government advocacy includes a bill in the VT legislature studying the services that libraries provide, with the hope that the results will involve some funding for all the gaps that libraries provide to their communities.

-reopening the library: anticipate it will come on us fast, and we need to be prepared

### **Committee Reports and Actions:**

**Executive:** ad hoc meeting with entire board to discuss next steps for the library

**Personnel:** .has not met

**Development:** Catherine presented the programs with Alison Bechdel, done on 2/12 with HS students, Yvonne and Stephanie due on 2/24 with PEG TV, and the Big Lenny/Uncle Dave interview on the website. The core goal is to maintain relevancy with our younger audience. Pushing for a big fundraiser is not currently in the plan, but as we move forward with the new library, funding for additional features may be pursued

**Building:** Barry presented, a new estimate is on the way for getting the air conditioning functional. The library did receive a \$1500 grant to improve air handling in the Nella Fox Room which will make it more usable in this Covid world.

**Policy & Planning:** Will presented the committee is starting the conversation on social media policy, more to come

**New Business:** Town Meeting focus that the 2022 RFL budget is level-funded, with no increase request from any town

Will made a motion at 6:06 to go into Executive Session, to include Randal and Amy. Barry seconded the motion.

The board came out of Executive Session at 7:03

**Adjournment: 7:03PM**

**Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 @ 5:15 pm**