

RUTLAND FREE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Nov 17, 2021

Meeting at Rutland Free Library Fox Room

Attending: Jennifer Bagley __X__; Joe Bertolloni __X__; Chris Booth __A__; Candace Britt __X__; Matt Britt __X__; Barry Cohen __X__; Clare Coppock __X__; Sharon Courcelle __X__; Allyn Kahle __X__; Sarah Marcus __X__; William Notte __X__; Ed Ogorzalek __A__; Matt Olewnik __X__; John Skinner __X__; Olivia Tipton __X__; Randal Smathers __X__; Amy Williams __X__ (X is present, A is absent)

Presiding: __Sharon Courcelle__ Secretary: __Clare Coppock__

Agenda Addition(s): Candace Britt, Matt Britt, Sarah Marcus, and John Skinner were nominated to the Board of Directors of the Rutland Free Library. Will Notte made a motion to approve the nomination, Jennifer Bagley seconded the motion and motion was approved unanimously. WELCOME!!!

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: Allyn moved and Barry seconded the approval of the Oct 2021 minutes, all approved.

Financials (report and committee): Barry reported that the October budget figures continue to be right on target. Overall we have a \$1900 profit this fiscal year. Our balance sheet has never been stronger with our cash on hand being high. Plan is to take \$50,000 from cash and put it into an interest-bearing account. Allyn moved, Will seconded to accept the financial report. All approved.

Director & Assistant Director Updates:

Amy: continuing to focus on improving tools and processes. Currently looking at software that can be used for room reservation. Assabet looks good, as it could also be used to reserve "library of things", such as park passes, snowshoes, bikes, etc. Plus, it would allow room events to go directly on the website. It is pricey, but the Fox Fund could be used to pay for this as the Fox Fund money can only be used on "patron" services.

The consortium is looking at changing the look of the online catalog system. This will be a labor intensive process over the next 3 months.

Randal: is working on redoing the website with staff input, and requests any help as offered. The heat is working and the "Poet's Corner" looks great. The tentative date for the city budget meeting is Dec 16th at 5:30. City Board members are requested to attend to show support.

Randal is currently talking with Rutland Town's Select Board as Don Cioffi is claiming the library is a waste of money and is proposing to defund the library and go to a voucher system. This was done in the past and lasted one year, as the Rutland Town Office found it to be very labor intensive, and library patrons were very vocal with their complaints. He is asking for the number of Rutland Town patrons, which is difficult to quantify, as they don't have a separate zip code. The hope is that the board refuses to put it on the ballot, though it could still be put on if 5% of town signatures are obtained requesting it as a ballot item.

The library's "mask mandatory" has resulted in at least 2 cases of abuse/shouting, necessitating a call to the police department. The police response was 8-9 minutes, the patron had already left. Randal is asking the police for other ways to help, including having the downtown "beat" policeman make his presence known casually.

Committee Reports and Actions:

Executive: Sharon reported the committee met and discussed the Rutland Town issue, the mask/violence issues, and committee assignments. The plan is to finalize the committee assignments within the next week. A new leader is needed for the Development committee.

Personnel: Did not meet

Development: Needs a new leader! Envelope stuffing for the donor mailing will occur on Saturday at 12 noon.

Building: Heat is on. Smaller issues need to be addressed. A meeting will be held, soon. Plan is to continue to have an "ad hoc" committee to address the needs for moving forward with improving the library space.

Policy & Planning: Did not meet.

New Business: Amy provided update materials for the binders.

Adjournment: 6:40PM

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday__January 19, 2022____@ 5:15 pm