

**Minutes, 137th ANNUAL MEETING**  
**Rutland Free Library Association**  
**5:15 PM Wednesday, October 18, 2022 Fox Room**

President Barry Cohen welcomed all to the 137th Annual Meeting of the Rutland Free Library Association and called the meeting to order.

Secretary Clare Coppock presented the minutes of the 136th meeting. Jennifer moved to approve and Amy seconded, and they were approved unanimously.

Barry presented the financial report for FY 23. The CPA review of the RFL financials acknowledged the strong financials of the library. We continue to closely operate according to the plan, with variances of 1%. The balance sheet shows strong cash on hand, though investments have taken a hit. Randal moved to accept the financial report, Amy seconded, and it was approved unanimously.

Barry gave the President's report. In the last year, the library demonstrated we are open to everyone including the homeless, LGBTQ+, and children. We have overcome challenges: including security, purchasing cameras, staff pepper spray use, the lack of funding from the town of Ira, and chasing grants. Plans for the future include filling the two open positions, replenishing our board, and working on the library renovation and expansion project. Barry gave a BIG THANK YOU to leaving board members; Sharon Courcelle past president, Will Notte and Jennifer Bagley.

Director Randal Smathers Theme for the year is "Changes and Growth". The use of the Fox Room is seeing increased growth, with programs for all ages, motivated by volunteers wanting to share their interests with the community. Lending is up 11%, now at 80% pre-Covid. The circulation growth is powered mostly by online borrowing, up 18%. More people are requesting books be pulled ahead of time, which involves more staff time. The small meeting room has been set up for video conferencing, making its use more in demand. The library is not what it was 12 years ago, 5 years ago, or even 1 year ago. Thus, the proposal for a new renovated, expanded building is needed to be able to provide for these new services.

Four new members were introduced to become trustees of the library: Carolyn Meub meets the 30 day association membership requirement to become a trustee. Kevin Coleman, Joanne Pencak, and Jonathan Reynolds will meet the 30 day criteria in November. Candice moved to approve, Jennifer seconded and all voted unanimously to accept the new board members, with the caveat that Kevin, Joanne, and Jonathan cannot officially be voting members until the November meeting.

The new slate of officers proposed:  
Barry Cohen, President  
Matt Olewnik, Vice President  
Kevin Coleman, Treasurer

Clare Coppock, Secretary

Joe moved to accept, Candice seconded and the new officers were accepted unanimously

Allyn presented the proposed changes to the association bylaws. Article I Section 1 to include employees as members. Article II Section 1 does not allow employees to be trustees. Article II Section 2 addressed the selection of trustees. Article II Section 6 the removal of trustees. Carolyn moved to accept the changes, Candice seconded and the changes were approved unanimously.

New Business: Jean Steadman, representing the "Friends of the Library", extended an invitation to the board to visit the book sales and the desire to work with the board. Amy gave the "Friends" a BIG THANK YOU for all of their work, noting the long lines waiting for the library to open on book sale days, and their contributions to the library, with the latest being a new floor scrubber. The book sales are a huge success with the net for calendar year 2023 coming close to \$20-25,000. Carolyn acknowledged the joyful atmosphere and organization of the sales.

Randal reported the new Recycling Blue Box outside of the library entrance has kept 9900 lbs of books out of the landfill since its inception 3 months ago.

Barry adjourned the meeting at 5:35PM