

RUTLAND FREE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

12/18/24

Meeting at Rutland Free Library Fox Room

Attending: Ann Bannister__X__; Joe Bertelloni__A__; Gabi Bourassa__X__ Clare Coppock __X__; Leonard DeLorenzo__X__; Allyn Kahle __X__; Kevin Klamm__X__; Carolyn Meub__X__; Matt Olewnik__A__; Joanne Pencak__A__; Cathy Reynolds__X__; Cathy Solsaa__A__; John Skinner__A__; Ken Watson__A__; Randal Smathers__X__; Amy Williams __X_ (X is present, A is absent)

Presiding: __Clare Coppock____Secretary: __Allyn Kahle__

Agenda Addition(s): A motion was made by Carolyn and seconded by Cathy R to admit Gabi Bourassa as a member of the board. Motion passed unanimously

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: Kevin moved/Cathy R seconded to accept the minutes of the Nov. 20 meeting with some spelling changes. Motion approved.

Financials (report and committee): In Joanne's absence, Clare and Cathy summarized the results of the Finance Comm. meeting. The annual fundraiser has brought in \$25,512 to date. This includes \$5,000 from the Heritage Family Credit Union. Our goal for this year is \$35,000. We are about \$6,000 (\$1000 if you don't include the HFCU donation) ahead of where we were last year at this time.

Cathy R also noted it is important for board members to make a contribution to the campaign. Some reports that are filed ask for information about board member participation.

We are on budget in the November financial report. Board members are encouraged to read the notes that are highlighted at the bottom of the report.

Copies of the Davis & Hodgdon financial compilation were given to members in attendance and members are encouraged to read the report. Darby and Joanne have written an RFP for a yearly financial review which will go out this week with a response deadline in February. The Finance Comm has determined that a financial review is sufficient for our needs rather than a compilation and should also be less expensive. Randal noted that a regular audit is not scheduled, but any member can request an audit, which request then goes before the board. Lenny moved/Kevin seconded to accept the financial report. Motion passed.

Committee Reports and Actions:

Executive: An informal committee has been formed to plan a memorial for longtime employee, Caroline M., that is sensitive to her wish for privacy. Amy is working with the group and she will keep the board posted. It may be a small gathering in the Fox Room in January.

The union negotiations were also discussed. The board received a request to meet in Dec., but Matt O, Chairman of the Personnel Comm, is drafting a response to meet in January. The Exec Comm discussed hiring a negotiator, but no decision was made.

Former board member Sarah Marcus has volunteered to help with this effort.

The Exec comm decided to put off the Strategic Planning effort until after Town Meeting Day. Kevin suggested the names Joan Gamble and Nancy Mosher as people who could lead this project.

Board Development: Carolyn explained that this committee (composed of Carolyn, Lenny, Gabi) are not only involved with recruiting new members, but also assessing the skills that members lack and how to obtain these skills through recruitment or training.

Personnel: discussed under exec comm

Development: Clare explained that Joanne and Cathy S will co-chair this committee, which needs to set a meeting date for Jan. Jennifer Bagley met with Clare and shared ideas for possible projects.

Building: See under Director's report

Policy & Planning: Allyn introduced the Electronic Resources Policy and asked the board to discuss this statement: *Display of explicitly sexual, violent, or offensive materials is inappropriate for an open public environment and is prohibited.* It's important that whoever is in charge has a clear policy statement when they need to make a decision about inappropriate content displayed on public facing computers. After some deliberation Amy and Randal agreed they would discuss how to resolve this issue. Lenny reminded the board that we also need a privacy statement on our website.

Director & Assistant Director Updates:

Amy had reported earlier on the plans for Caroline M memorial. There were no questions about her written report.

Randal presented a slideshow entitled Rutland Civic Center. This will be shown at some of the public meetings planned for Jan. and Feb. Some of the main points of the slideshow are 1) 10 Court St. has not had a major remodel since 1988, longer than most other libraries in VT of comparable size, 2) extensive repairs are needed, 3) library renovation costs are rising, and 4) renovation of the Asa Bloomer building would cost about half of renovation to 10 Court St.

The public meetings are set for Thursday, Jan. 16, 5:30 PM, at the Godnick Center, Wednesday, Jan. 22, noon, in the Fox Room with VT State Librarian, Catherine Delneo, and Wednesday, Feb. 12, 5:30 PM, in the Fox Room. The publicity and media campaign for these meetings will begin very soon. Posters about the events are planned to be displayed in locations downtown and in the member communities.

New Business: none

Adjournment: 6:40 pm

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, Jan 15, 2025 @ 5:15 pm