

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Blake Memorial Library Association, Tuesday April 19, 2016

(114<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting)

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Welcome and introduction of Board of Trustees
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Neighbor introductions (Emily Heidenreich)
- V. Consolidated Board Report
- VI. Treasurer's Report
- VII. Library Director's Report
- VIII. Library Director attributes brainstorm (Elisabeth Kulakowski)
- IX. Election of new members of the Association
- X. Election of members of the Board of Trustees
- XI. Invitation to sign up for committees
- XII. Adjournment

Blake Memorial Board Members attending: Lisa Locke, Lynne Benjamin, Jen Spanier, Miranda Miller, Linda Weiss, Laura Waterman, Emily Heidenreich, Greg Renner, Shirley Montagne

Call to order at : 7:28 pm

Roll Call: Introduce your neighbor. Attendees were paired with another attendee and given 10 minutes to learn several interesting facts and then introduce each other.

Committee Reports: All the director and committee reports are available for perusal rather than being read aloud.

Farewell to Ken Linge: A standing ovation to Ken who is forever in our debt for making Blake Memorial Library a vibrant center of our community.

Search Committee for New Director. The search committee received 18 applications of highly qualified applicants. The committee will review and will narrow down to 2 to 3 applicants for face-to-face interviews. The starting time for the new director is sometime in June to provide overlap for training with Ken. The attendees were asked to consider a list of attributes for new library director: community orientation, tech savvy, passion for literature, management skills, longevity among others. A key decision matrix is a survey of objectives that quantifies attributes by ranking each attribute in order to stay on track as to what is most important. Attendees are asked to rank each attribute from 1 to 7 with 1 the least important and with a blank space to list a new attribute. The survey results were announced for the top attributes: community orientation, love of books, effective communicator, organized, management skills, tech savvy, and longevity to the job.

2015 Annual Meeting Minutes. Moved, seconded and accepted.

Consolidated Board Reports. Our committees have been quite busy. The Clifford Building has been sold with a gross profit of \$259,000 (excluding \$29,000 operational funds loan). Plans for renovation and new addition are in abeyance until the new director is on board. A motion to approve consolidated board reports was made and seconded. Accepted by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's report: 2016 Budget is presented. The highlights are operational expenses of \$60,000 of which 70% is supported by funding from our three trusts and 30% from fundraising initiatives. This is the first year with no surplus in budget. Motion to approve treasurer's report by Peter Keene and seconded by Martha Cook. Accepted by unanimous vote.

Library Director report. Over this year there was a fair amount of work to manage and complete Clifford building sale. The development committee vision for the library is community oriented activities as a human institution, and is working on use of funds received from the sale of the Clifford Building. It is important to understand that the Vermont libraries of our size on the average receive \$29/capita while Blake Memorial Library is funded entirely by private funds (we do receive \$1/capital from towns of Corinth and Topsham). Motion to approve by Lisa, second by John and accepted by unanimous vote.

Election of new members to the association: Our bylaws allow for 100 members and the current membership stands at 54. New nominations for 2016 are: Len and Melanie Whitaker of Corinth, Margaret Loftus of Corinth and Rasna Dhillon of Corinth, Claire Porter, Suki Hausmann, Tania Aebi, Ben and Melanie DelFrari. Motion by Martha Cook, seconded and accepted by unanimous vote.

Board Members: Appreciation for their service was expressed to the 3 board members whose 3 year terms are up. Greg Renner (Topsham member) is retiring, Laura Waterman who has been on the board for 6 years and Lisa Locke who has finished her first term. Greg's position is the Town of Topsham appointee which is based on the Blake Memorial Library Board recommendation. Nominees from the floor are: Len Whitaker, Andrea Buermeyer, Margaret Loftus, Lisa Locke. The paper ballots results are: Lisa Locke, Margaret Loftus and Len Whitaker.

Committees: Blake Memorial Library is successful because of all our volunteers. Committees are open for membership beyond board members. These committees include the Governance, Finance, Fund Raising, Development Committee, and Personnel. The book sale is approaching and we have a plea for help in sorting books on Wednesdays from 1:00 to 3:00. The book sale is scheduled for Memorial Day weekend.

Thanks to Hank: Every Tuesday morning the library is open for homeschoolers. There are a dozen kids who are interested in playing chess from grade 1 through grade 8. Hank Buermeyer organizes the chess club and took the homeschoolers to the Vermont Chess competition in Berlin Vermont on April 2. Many thanks to Hank.

Member Suggestions: Post the committees online and provide a list for the public.

Adjourned at 8:50 pm