

Blake Memorial Library Minutes – October 19, 2021

Present: Dina Dubois, Kathryn Price, Rob Rinaldi, Jen Spanier, Nick Kramer, Kimberly Hoteling, Shirley Montagne, Miranda Miller

Absent: Carl Demrow, Tania Abei

Shirley volunteered to take minutes as Carl was out at sea (literally)

August 2021 Minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurers Report. Shirley indicated that there were no exceptional items to discuss. The PPP Loan is in the process of being forgiven for \$5,813 and will then be moved into grant status and help offset the salary overbudget run. Children's camp draft finance report was reviewed. Miranda indicated that there are additional changes and updates that will show that the grant funds exceeded the grant expenses and will provide some additional funds for library. It was pointed out that the camp salaries reflect 9 different staff for 4 weeks of camps due to higher than anticipated enrollment. Library staff were not part of the camp staff. Shirley and Miranda will work together to finalize the summer camp. The treasurer's report was moved to accept, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Director' report. Jen reviewed highlights of the report. Visitors have dropped slightly this fall due to Covid surge and school starting. Events such as movie night was small attendance and fun. Upcoming event in November are several sessions on death with Vermont Hospice social worker, advance directive and green burial. There was some discussion as whether event should be held in the tent (do we need heaters) or in the library with video capability for those who are not comfortable attending. Jen is hoping to have the air filters by the time of the event. If everyone has masks, then squares with CDC guidance for events over the winter. Open windows and doors for additional air. Jen is getting a meeting owl for events for Zooming events but won't have it in time for the Nov 1 meeting. Rob has talked with Carl who suggested taking the tent down by Thanksgiving.

Hunters' safety course was very popular with over 50 participants and families traveling from many different towns. Apparently, there are not a lot of hunter safety courses offered and all participants and families were very appreciative of the event. Kimberly is planning future safety offerings with Bow Hunting safety course in the spring.

The library switched over art exhibit of Highland cows by Emilie Hall of Newbury. Grants reporting is ongoing. Scott Welch was paid in 1,100 for refurbished computers intended for lending but no one has been able to get a hold of him as he does not return phone calls or respond to emails. Miranda was clear with Scott that computers should be completed before she left; Shirley will write letter to Scott asking for our money back as she knows of another company that can do the same work.

American rescue plan grant should arrive soon for library air handling equipment and collection. Jen plans to apply for another ALA grant for humanities for \$10,000 for afternoon and middle school camp. Miranda will help with grant writing and running program. Jen is working on the Vermont Reads grant for book discussions.

Active collaborations and partnerships with other organizations include the Corinth Conservation, and local youth groups. Jen has been talking with Jeff Spiegel about a tool lending program with support volunteers to provide instruction and manage care of the equipment. Rob voiced concerns regarding the

need for storage part for such equipment as we already have a storage issue with books, and concern on liability for potential injury. Will there be a signed waiver by the borrower? Shirley will follow up on what insurance will cover. Dina asked about the process of working with the conservation commission. Kimberly indicated that the library does the media process and commission does the planning. Initially Miranda and Kimberly went to the commission meetings to start discussions on collaboration.

Library has many active volunteers including an enthusiastic school-age volunteer.

Dina asked about permanent stands in the Town Forest. The conservation commission bought the stakes and Kimberly bought stakes back to the library for a story walk at the library where it might be used more. Dina's understanding is to have permanent story walk throughout the forest. A participant noted that the laminating was incomplete, and the pages are deteriorating after weathering. Kimberly indicated that the pages need to be fixed with better lamination.

Motion to approve Director's report and seconded. All are in favor.

Next meeting Wednesday, December 8, 2021 to allow all board members to attend due to conflicts on Tuesday December 7, 2021. The December meeting is scheduled earlier due to holiday.

Motion, seconded and approved to adjourn at 7:25 pm.

Respectively submitted, Shirley Montagne