

Approved 10/18/22

BLAKE MEMORIAL LIBRARY TRUSTEES MEETING

6:30 PM, August 18, 2022

In the library basement

Trustees present at the library: Shirley Montagne, Rob Rinaldi, Kathryn Price, Nick Kramer, Tania Aebi, Carl Demrow. Also at library: Jen Spanier, Director. Trustees on Zoom: Dina Dubois. Also on Zoom: Miranda Moody Miller, Camp Director.

Shirley brought the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.

Rob moved to approve the minutes of the April meeting and Nick seconded.

Treasurer's report: Shirley told us that the appeal and tour were very successful. The line of credit has been drawn down by \$40,000 for the camp and will be paid off when we are reimbursed with the grant. We did have some expenses for a new pressure tank and for fixing the water spigot. Shirley has a concern about \$6K in the camp budget that she is not really sure what it is. Shirley believes that operating income and expenses will break even by the end of the year, not including camp grant income and expenses. We had a discussion about the electrical costs and how to best lower those expenses. We discussed the possibility of asking Efficiency Vermont to come in and look at our usage- Shirley will give them a call. We also had a discussion about the \$2,000 held for the library by the town of Corinth. Dina asked if it would be possible for the town to spend the money on the library's behalf. Shirley will email Rick and Dick to get on the agenda for the next financial meeting. The board expressed appreciation for the work of Ann Peck in putting together the tour- Rob suggested the best way to thank her would be to ask her to do it again! The Board voted to donate \$100 to Ann Peck's Indian stove charity as a thank you.

Rob moved to accept the treasurer's report and Nick seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Jen said that visitation is way up and that the library has begun to use the Baker and Taylor Sustainable Shelves program that gives credit for and recycles books that are being culled from the collection. Through the VDoL and their Palace app, there will be a lot more ebook content available. The library is an official repository for the EPA Pike Hill Mine project. Suzanne Brown will be doing a gastronomy series this fall, and this winter's book group will be related to the Vermont Reads book, *The Most Costly Journey* about migrant workers in Vermont. It was suggested that programs for children that the library wants to highlight could possibly be but in the school newsletter- Jen will contact Amy Kramer if there is a program she wants to highlight. Other things: Volunteer appreciation will be coming up, along with a hunter safety training and an AED training. Another upcoming event will be a paint and sip (byob). The usual Halloween and Day of the Dead programming is also coming up.

We had a quick conversation about camp but very much wanted to follow up with Miranda. Shirley, Jen, and perhaps Rob will be debriefing with Miranda at some point in the near future and also discussing the after school program.

Bill Ricker came to look at the drainage issue and provided estimates for two separate treatments. The board discussed and Shirley made a motion to accept option 1. Carl seconded and the motion passed, but Carl and Rob will meet with Billy and will email the board regarding the outcome.

Mike Pittman tested the speed of our internet equipment to troubleshoot the issues with the network- it turns out the numbers we are getting at all points are 25/25, same speed as we are receiving from Topsham Telephone.

Shirley noted that there used to be a volunteer appreciation luncheon over at the church, but Shirley said that it should not be the staff's responsibility to put it on, it should really be the board that puts it on. Dina had the idea of sending handwritten thank you cards to the volunteers.

We then had a discussion about the fundraising committee and ideas for reconstituting it.

Rob made a motion to accept the directors report and Nick seconded. The Director's report was adopted.

Miranda then provided a summary of how the camp went. Miranda said the camp served over 90 kids in five straight weeks. One day was cancelled due to thunderstorms at arrival time. There was a stomach bug that did reduce the numbers and there were some challenges with the space at Waits River School that eventually got sorted out. Miranda said there was good feedback from families and and a few complaints. Most of last year's staff returned. Goals around getting outside, providing nutritious food, exercise, and the summer reading program were met. Little Rivers provided clinicians two days a week, but that had some mixed success.

Miranda is getting questions about the after school program. Likely days are Tuesday and Thursday and participants will be bussed from WRVS. She is not looking to begin the program at the same time that school starts.

Shirley noted there was a really nice donation and a thank you note from a patron whose grandkids enjoyed the camp, and she asked Miranda when she thought the after school program might start and Miranda said she was shooting somewhere between late September to mid October. Rob asked how many kids and if there is a cap. Miranda said she was looking at a maximum of 20. Shirley said she'd be in touch with Miranda to go over her plans for the after school program.

September 20 will be the association meeting.

Rob moved to adjourn, Kathryn seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Demrow Secretary