

Approved December 4, 2023

BLAKE MEMORIAL LIBRARY TRUSTEES MEETING

6:30 pm, October 17, 2023

At the library and on zoom.

Trustees present: on zoom, Dina Dubois. At the library: Shirley Montagne, Rob Rinaldi, Nick Kramer, Kathryn Price, and Zoe Tilley Poster. Also present: Jen Spanier, Library Director.

Shirley brought the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Rob moved to approve minutes of the August meeting, Nick seconded it. They were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Shirley presented the treasurer's report. She has asked towns of Corinth and Topsham to increase their contributions to the library to \$3 per capita, up from \$2 per capita. Dina asked how long it has been at \$2 and we agreed it had been several years, but less than ten.

Savings bonds were sent to the US Treasury Department for redemption of approximately \$52,000. Paying off the \$41,000 renovation line of credit was discussed. Rob suggested waiting until 2024 budget decisions are made.

Rob explained that there is another line of credit for summer programs. We are awaiting reimbursement from VT Afterschool to pay it off.

Also discussed was an anonymous \$10,000 donation to the library.

Director's Report:

Jen presented the director's report. We are still awaiting the arrival of our new lending telescope. Jen is considering not renewing our Junior Library Guild subscription or renewing only a few categories. Books can be chosen individually as they are for the adult collection.

We have a new story hour volunteer, Erica Venuti.

Several groups are meeting at the library including our new robotics team and the Corinth Ukulele Society.

There will be a Vermont Golden Dome and Green Mountain book award challenge party on November 15. Jen explained how these award programs work and the effort to encourage young people to read these books. The Winnie Belle grant is being used to fund this project.

Jen held a workshop on using the library catalog and accessing account information from home. Only staff and volunteers attended. Dina suggested trying again to get patrons to participate.

Jen mentioned upcoming programs including a bat program, trick or treating, and Vermont Reads. Jen explained how the photo contest works. Also discussed were the possibility of a hunting safety course and fire safety program sometime in the future.

Jen also addressed for Dina the history and trends of program numbers and attendance.

Fundraising:

Shirley shared progress in the formation of a fundraising committee. Katharine Lea and Liane Allen have volunteered to co-chair. Shirley is arranging a meeting with veteran fundraising committee members.

Shirley and Jen met with Ann Peck about the upcoming House, Art, Garden tour. It has been scheduled for July 6 and 7, 2024. Progress is being made in lining up participants. Anne McKinsey is retiring and may not wish to create the brochures again. Ann Peck thinks she might have a substitute. There will be a future meeting with other fundraising committee members. Dina asked about the number of locations and Shirley explained the participants will gather in groups to lessen the number of locations.

Other discussions:

Nick gave an update on personnel committee meetings with staff and evaluations.

Rob gave a quick synopsis of the work of the Building and Grounds committee.

Zoe volunteered to work with any committee where there is a need and Rob suggested fundraising which she agreed to.

Dina asked about the reaction to the Banned Books Displays and the Beetlejuice filming experience.

Jen asked about the possibility of closing the library the day after Thanksgiving and the board agreed that it was a good idea.

The next meeting will be Monday, December 4.

Rob made a motion to adjourn and Kathryn seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Spanier, Library Director (substituting for secretary, Carl Demrow).