Approved June 11, 2025

BLAKE MEMORIAL LIBRARY TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
6:30pm, April 16, 2025
At the library

Trustees present: Rob Rinaldi, Tania Aebi, Zoe Tilley Poster, Dina Dubois, Kathryn Price, Catherine Tudish, and Carl Demrow, and Nick Kramer on Zoom. Also present: Shirley Montagne, Treasurer and Jen Spanier, Library Director.

Rob called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

Meeting started with circulation of picture Dina brought of Charlie Kramer—congratulations Nicolas and Molly! We look forward to hearing junior stories!

Kathryn made a motion to approve the minutes of February 12, and Zoe seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurers' Report: Shirley said our expenses are a bit high for this time of year, due to heating and insurance costs, but those should even out a bit as we head out of winter. $11,600 is in the checking account and $32K in the savings account (Shirley did I get this right?) The most recent scheduled distribution from the investment account was not taken since we did not need it thanks to the fundraising committee and their fantastic online auction. We spent $600 on propane for the generator. Receipts are about 20% of budget, but the town disbursements come later in the year and payroll is right on target, Shirley says. Carl moved to approve the treasurer's report and Kathryn seconded. The treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

Director's Report: Jen noted that Catherine is holding a writing class, there was a screening on the film Underdog and Woodsville Guarantee Savings Bank came to give a session on avoiding fraud. Jill Morton will be doing a workshop on Advance Directives, and there will be a session on green burials. Also, there will be a book group reading and discussion of Roz Chast's "Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?", a graphic novel about aging parents.

Coming up, there will be an event on the constitutional separation of powers, with Gary Apfel and Joyce McKeeman. Carrie Caouette Dellallo's "Doors of Chelsea" drawings are on exhibit, hanging in the main reading area.

There will be federal funding cuts to libraries anticipated, and the courier grant is part of that, about $700 we will have to replace. The grant pays for interlibrary loan deliveries. Catherine moved to accept the directors report and Tania seconded. Report adopted unanimously.

Fundraising Committee: Zoe gave a quick recap of the online auction that raised $5,600. Zoe said it went pretty smoothly, but it will be an every other or every third year event. There will

need to be a way to generate revenue in those off years, possibly with a revamped secret garden tour. May 24th is the rumpus with the plant sale, kids crafts, and Rob will be making pizza. Carl described the online auction as a 'home run". In addition to Zoe, Catherine, Lisa Locke, Anne McKinsey and Katharine Lea have all been working together on the fundraising committee. Kathryn moved to approve the fundraising report and Dina seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Buildings and Grounds: There were some ice dams this winter on the back side of the building. The B&G crew broke up the dams and will keep an eye on that part of the building in future winters. B&G also got a new flag and filled in the generator trench. Rob met with Catherine and Ginny Barlow and they applied for a grant through the Urban Forestry Program. We might get a new twin maple tree for out back! The program brings a mature tree, plants it, and does all the maintenance for a year. B&G committee will seed and mulch the area outside in a week or so. They will also get the tent up before May 1. Shirley noted the head units for heat pumps need to be vacuumed once a month, she will give Rob the contact info for the cleaners, and he will follow up. Zoe moved to approve the report and Tania seconded. Report was unanimously accepted.

Governance Report: Tania spoke a bit about the proposed changes to the Collection Development Policy. This revision incorporates some good parts of our previous policy with the recommended DOL framework which is what we adopted in February. Jen gave a few examples of what we do with books that have been retired from the collection. Carl moved to adopt the changes proposed by the governance committee and Dina seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Shirley asked if we would be willing as a board to write to the federal delegation to express our displeasure with the dissolution of the Institute for Museums and Library Services . The DOL gets a third of their budget from IML. Shirley will draft a letter and send it to Jen who will distribute to the board.

The next meeting will be June 11 at 6:30 PM.

Dina closed the meeting with a poem about spring her mother wrote.

Carl moved to adjourn the meeting and Kathryn seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carl Demrow, secretary