Blake Memorial Library Association Annual Meeting
September 16, 2025

Draft Minutes

Present:

Association members: Becky Buchanan, Anne Mckinsey, Martha Travis, Marian Cawley, Wendy and John Heidenreich, Dean Packard, Sue Parmenter, Ginny Barlow, Chris Doyle, Stuart Granoff, Katharine Lea, Elliot Lea Saken, Hank Buermeyer, Sheila Herman, Erica Venuti, John Milburn
Staff: Jen Spanier, Kimberly Hotelling
Treasurer: Shirley Montagne

Board Members: , Rob Rinaldi, Tania Aebi, Catherine Tudish, Kathryn Price, Zoe Tilley Poster, and Carl Demrow.

BML Board President Rob Rinaldi called the meeting to order at 7:16 PM.

BML Trustees President Rob Rinaldi welcomed the attendees and spoke briefly about the associations' governance role and how it will elect three new board members this evening. Library Director Jen Spanier spoke about the work of the library and an overview of what happened this past year. She spoke of how the funding cuts to the National Endowment for the Humanities will effect the library. Vermont reads will continue, but there is less support for programming. The library provides a lot of programming year round for people of all ages and interests from art and humanities programing to storytelling, magic, and natural sciences. The library received a number of impactful grants that have provided books to the library, Waits River Valley School, and community partners Capstone and the Orange County Parent Child Center. The library also got a grant to build a solar shed that will provide device charging for patrons off hours and storage for the library. Lots of outside groups use the library: a mahjong group, ukelele players, a creative writing group and others.

Treasurer Shirley Montagne spoke a bit about the libraries finances and gave a brief comparison with past years. She also spoke a bit about the budget process each year and that our budget is about $75K in expenses each year. Shirley thanked the fundraising committee for their efforts and the community for it's support as well as the towns.

Carl Demrow and Dina Dubois are at the end of their second terms and Nick Kramer stepped off the board effective September 15. The slate of nominees to replace trustees going off the board are Dean Packard, Stuart Granoff, and Shirley Montagne. The nominees were offered a chance to share a bit about themselves and they did.

The slate and current board member terms:

Tania Aebi: April 2021 to April 2024 first term; second term 2024 to 2027
Virginia Adams: Sept 2024 to 2027
Stuart Granoff : Sept 2025 to Sept 2028
Shirley Montagne: Sept 2025 to Sept 2028
Dean Packard: Sept 2025 to Sept 2028
Zoe Tilley Poster: 2023 to 2026
Kathryn Price: Oct 2020 to 2023 first term; second term 2023-2026*
Rob Rinaldi: Sept 2020 to 2023 first term; second term 2023-2026*
Catherine Tudish: Sept 2024 to Sept 2027

Rob moved the slate and Kathryn Price seconded. The slate was voted in unanimously.

Hank Buermeyer suggested that we need a vote on last year's minutes. Catherine Tudish moved to adopt the minutes from 2024 and Marian Cawley seconded. Last year's minutes were adopted unanimously.

Hank asked if we could have more speakers from the Vermont Humanities Council. Sue Parmenter asked when the last time we had an open house was.

There was a discussion about the association and its future….the board will likely be considering a way to update a 120 old way of doing things, but Shirley noted that the Association's role is written into our charter.

Hank Buermeyer moved to adjourn and Carl Demrow seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carl Demrow, secretary BML trustees