Approved August 13, 2025

BLAKE MEMORIAL LIBRARY TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
6:30pm, June 11, 2025
At the library

Trustees present: Rob Rinaldi, Tania Aebi, Dina Dubois, Kathryn Price, Ginny Adams, 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.

Kathryn moved to approve the minutes of the April 16th meeting and Tania seconded. Jen noted a clarification regarding the courier grant - the grant is from federal funding to libraries which may get cut and we should be prepared to pick that expense of $700 up in the future. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurers' Report: Shirley said our expenses are on track but our position looks not so great because of revenue, but that will sort itself out later in the year. Our elevator has to be inspected annually and it was $1000 for a full blown inspection and load test this year. In the past it has been about $250. It was a snowier year, so snow removal was a bit higher but she did not see any real problems with the expense lines. Carl moved to approve the treasurer's report and Kathryn seconded. The treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

Director's Report: Its been busy as usual, lots of groups are using the library. In May the Vermont Forest Cemetery Association came and did a workshop on green burials and there was a very well attended reception for Carrie Caouette Dellallo's "Doors of Chelsea" drawings. Sasha Hom had a discussion about her book, Sidework. The Spring Rumpus was successful, and this Saturday the 14th is the kickoff for the summer reading series- Marko the Magician will be at the library at 10. In July VINS is coming with a live animal program and there will a storytelling program in August with Michael Caduto. The book display is the Language of Flowers set up by Scott Elledge. Ben and Jerry's gave $1000 for healthy snacks afterschool. The other notable grant is CLiF for the Children's Literacy Foundation (Rural Library Grant). This grant is in conjunction with WRVS. It includes a storyteller or author event here or at the school x2, and $2000 for kids books and $1000 librarian's choice. Jen also went to a Vermont Library Association meeting she really enjoyed at Killington. The library will be doing something for next year's 250 anniversary of our country and Jen is starting to think about that. We had a brief discussion about the mechanics of ebooks and how the library pays for them. The Vermont Humanities Council lost a large chunk of its funding from the federal government, which very unfortunately means Suzanne Brown will not be facilitating the excellent book discussions, *except for* the Vermont Reads series. Nick spoke a bit about federal money and that DOL would be OK for state FY 26 but after that the picture looks murky. Tania moved to accept the directors report and Ginny seconded.

Tania presented the numbers on the rumpus revenue from Zoe: $1,546 from plants, $242 from books/crafts, and $600 from Rob's pizza. Rob noted that Chris Esten brought a ton of plants, way more that there had been before, and the plants were beautiful. Tania will write a card of thanks to Chris.

Buildings and Grounds: Rob gave the B&G report. We talked a bit about replacing the tent which is on its last legs. Nick and Carl will look into some grant programs to potentially fund a pavilion to replace the tent. Rob noted that the fence behind the property is getting pretty beat and B&G is thinking about that. Rob spoke briefly about the solar shed which will be built this summer, and will be the future home of the B&G committee espresso machine. Dina asked a bit about the security camera and the reason for it.

Personnel Committee: No report

New business:

Shirley noted she has a lot of old minutes and records from the library. We had a discussion about how to deal with those records and where to place them, either electronically or on paper. Shirley will ask Anne McKinsey if there is a way to place them on the website.

We had a discussion about recruiting new board members to take Dina and Carl's slots. Carl and Rob will serve as the nominating committee.

The next meeting will be on August 13 at 6:30 PM at the library and it is Dina's birthday!

Carl moved to adjourn and Catherine seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carl Demrow, Secretary