Approved by the Board February 4, 2026

BLAKE MEMORIAL LIBRARY TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
6:00 pm, December 10, 2025
At the library

Trustees present: Rob Rinaldi, Tania Aebi, Dean Packard, Ginny Adams, Shirley Montagne, Zoe Tilley Poster. On Zoom: Kathryn Price, Stuart Granoff. Also present: Carl Demrow, Secretary, Jen Spanier, Library Director and Kimberly Hotelling, Library Assistant.

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

Dean made a motion to approve the agenda and Ginny seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Ginny moved to approve the minutes of the October 7 trustees meeting and Shirley seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurers' Report: Shirley talked a it about some of the miscellaneous stock BML owns and then mentioned the Vermont Saves program through the state, which offers anyone in Vermont on payroll a convenient way to save for retirement through a payroll deduction. Shirley called GMP's energy coordinator to discuss the library's usage. THe energy coordinator said the only option was to drop the heating temp one degree and raise the AC temp one degree. Other than that, Shirley said expenses and revenues are on track wit the exception of electricity. Shirley moved the books out of quickbooks desktop and went to quickbooks online. Zoe moved to approve the treasurer's report and Dean seconded. The treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

Director's Report: Jen noted that there are lots of outside groups using the library and there seem to always be more. Programming highlights include holiday themed movie nights at the request of a tween gal. Over 100 folks came through for trick or treating. Suzanne Brown was back for a Vermont Reads discussion and there will be a beaver rescue program with Jon Aberth and he will talk about the ecological importance of beavers. There was a program on the effects of screen time on kids but it was not particularly well attended. BML collaborated with the Orange County Parent Child Center on a holiday gift drive. Kimberly will be having some crafternoons during school break along with a screening of Frozen. The current art display is titled Trefoil and features the photographic work of Mina Laughton. The staff is working on implementing the cliff rural library grant along with WRVS. Kimberly is interested in a dragon literacy program. There is another $1000 coming for programming and Jen and Kimberly will be working to figure out how to spend that. Finally, BML is also receiving a $10K grant to update the computers and technology. Stuart asked about the process of weeding out books and where they go when they are weeded.

There was a discussion about use of the library by outside groups and how that works if some of those groups are grant funded. There was a general consensus there should be a way to

recoup some of the library's operating costs. Shirley said we want people to be using the library and that she is really glad ho hear about these outside groups. Our agreement with outside groups states that the library would like to have outside groups offer a donation for that purpose.

Fundraising Committee: Zoe talked a bit about the open house and bake sale this weekend. There have been some crafting programs to make ornaments and other crafts to sell at the open house to benefit the library. The secret garden tour planning has begun for June.

Buildings and Grounds: Rob gave the buildings and grounds report and focussed on the solar portion of the solar shed. The idea is that the solar energy would be available from April to October to preserve the battery unit. Rob also discussed the tent condition which is pretty much done. That raised the question of the pavilion idea once again and the idea of having some solar generation on a future pavilion to defray the cost of the electricity used to heat and cool the building.

Technology Committee: Dean has sent out a survey to patrons and staff on the library's technology uses and needs and has received a bunch of responses. There are some networking upgrades that he is considering and the survey showed there was an interest in more printing capacity. He is planing a mesh system for the wifi that can add some nodes and connectivity for the building and extend it out to the shed to serve people outside the building He is also thinking about the $10K grant and how the library might dispose of its current computer assets as they get upgraded from the grant. One of the ideas was to have kids (and patrons) write a grant to get one of the computers that will be retired. Tania said she liked that idea.

Tania said the annual appeals letter is done and then needs to go to the post office. The other question was who will do the thank you notes. Lisa Locke has done it for many years but cannot now. Ginny will take care of the thank you notes.

There was no new business.

The next meeting will be February 4 at 6:00 PM.

Stuart moved to adjourn the meeting and Kathryn seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carl Demrow, secretary