

DOROTHY ALLING MEMORIAL LIBRARY

TRUSTEE MINUTES FEBRUARY 24, 2024 UNAPPROVED

Present: Shari Westman, Karla Karstens, Charity Clark, Steve Perkins, Barbara Mieder, Diane Downer; Librarians: Jane Kearns and Lori Ledak

Absent: Brian Goodwin

Secretary's report: The secretary's report was approved without corrections.

Treasurer's report: A check from the Community Fund was deposited into the Trustee's Account. This is a yearly transaction.

Friends of the Library report: The Friends have not met since our last meeting. Their next meeting will be in March.

Current budget report: The December Draft Budget report was presented. The goal is 50% spent and we are on track. There is an uptick in expenses to cover substitutes and a repair for the Bookmobile, also the alarm panel was replaced (part of a Town-wide initiative). Janitorial expenses are up 5% (the first rise in their costs in 5 years) and Kim will be buying some computer replacements. Additionally, the June 2023 Final Year End Budget was shown. Overall spending was at 98.08%, which is right on the money. There was a discussion of the \$4500 paid from St. George. Rather than that money going into the general fund, perhaps it could be directed into the Trustee account. We will revisit the St. George allocation amount in September.

Librarian's Report:

- **January Library Statistics:**
Patron visits are up and the emags are up. There was a slight dip in hoopla. Phone transactions are up, likely because of the eclipse. Youth and Adult programs and participation are increasing or holding steady.
- Bonnie Lord was awarded a scholarship to the virtual PLA 2024 conference, April 3-5, 2024. It also includes an annual subscription to ALA and PLA (Public Library Association).
- VTLIB Treasury Capital Grant Application

Jane is working on a VTLIB Treasury Capital Grant application for some of the \$16.4M U.S. Treasury Capital Projects Fund for Libraries being distributed to Libraries in each of Vermont's Counties. The application deadline is March 12 and they expect to announce awards late spring or early summer. Goal: To address

critical building improvements to ensure Vermonters have continued access to high-speed Internet to directly enable work, education, and health monitoring at their local public libraries. (Note: We are not eligible for the upcoming HUD grant: \$10M for Public Facilities Preservation Initiative Grants for small, rural public libraries in Vermont which is geared to smaller rural libraries.) We are applying for the grant for renovation to the current Library.

Our project: Dorothy Alling Memorial Library Weatherization, Electrical, Internet Access & Future Planning Project

This is a multi-faceted renovation project which includes a weatherization initiative to replace windows, exterior insulation and siding, electrical upgrades to replace current fluorescent lighting with LED lighting and, installation of a new electrical service. The project includes plans for improving internet access and privacy for patrons to use the internet, by installing a privacy meeting pod and upgrading the Wi-Fi network used to support internet access. Looking to the future, schematic design work for an addition on the current site is also part of the project.

Staff Report: Lori Ledak, Services Librarian

In November, Mary Ellen Crangle passed away. She ran a number of online programs, including Lifestories and Meditation. She is missed by many as her programs were very popular. Lori has picked up the slack, learning about meditation and other topics. Lori also coordinates the many book groups, including the After Hours Book Group. A new member of that group is someone who is in VT temporarily with the Air National Guard. Adult crafting is also going strong. The InterGen program is winding down for the year. The program has one set of books for 5/6 graders and another for 7/8 graders, which seems to be working well. The kids enjoy reading the books, which are often Golden Dome books. There is also an Adult Table Top Role Play (Dungeons and Dragons) group (20 – 40 something adults) and Mocktails and Game Night, which has also been popular with that demographic. There are some active food related programs with Chocolate making and Cook the Book and lately a 70's themed Dinner Party. The BINGO Reading challenges are a big success – encouraging people to read genres that are new to them.

Scoping Study Report

The consensus of the Selectboard is to move the library expansion/renovation project forward separate from Community Center project, with a goal of putting the plans to a bond vote in March 2025. John Hemmelgarn would like to start work on schematic plans as soon as the Trustees have a committee to support the project together. The end of March or April should be good to start. He anticipates the committee would need to meet every 2 weeks for the first few months then easing off to monthly in the summer. Karla and Steve are interested in serving on that committee.

New Business:

Jane proposed changes in the Library Hours, due to some upcoming events.

Monday, April 8, 2024– Close from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. for the Eclipse

Friday, April 19, 2024– Request to open at 12:30 p.m. so staff could participate in Active Shooter Training

Monday, May 30, 2024– Close the library so staff can attend the VLA Annual Conference

A motion was made by Barbara, seconded by Shari, to approve the changes. PASSED.

Old Business: Jane reached out to Mara Saule to see if she was interested in helping create our new Strategic Plan. Steve suggested she present a written proposal to see how she sees the Strategic Plan fitting in with the library expansion.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Next meeting: March 18, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.