

*****DRAFT*****

Worthen Library

Monthly Meeting – Board of Trustees

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

Attending:

Board members: Ken Kowalewitz, Natalie Kendrach, Luke Tremble, Kristen Bartle (and her cat), Liz Wirsing

Library Director: Keagan Calkins

Members of the public: Matt Bartle

Call to order @ 6:06 PM

Annual Meeting: LT ran the meeting and asked for nominees for treasurer, secretary and chair. LW nominated Ken for Chair; KB nominated LW for treasurer; and LT nominated Natalie for secretary. Motion was made for the slate by KB. Seconded by LW. Passed unanimously. KK moved that, for purposes of minutes, the library contract with Mary Harwood be renewed. Passed unanimously.

Preliminary Business

- **Review payment orders for approval:** Summary of Bills circulated to the board for review.
- **Agenda adjustments:** Ken Kowalewitz (KK) asks if there are any adjustments to the agenda. KK requested to add a discussion about Library CDs at the bank.
- **Public Comment:** None
- **Review and accept the minutes from the previous monthly meeting:** The minutes from the February 7, 2023 meeting were brought for approval. NK motioned that the minutes be accepted. KB seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

Library Director's Report: Report submitted by Keagan Calkins (KC), reviewed by Board (see full report on the website).

- The Library is hosting three Vermont authors this summer as part of the Speaker Series: Harry Bliss, Emily Bernard, Stephen Kiernan.
- Other programs in the Speaker Series include: "Sorting the News from the Chaff"; Mountains and Identity in Vermont; drinking water in the Islands; drone photography; SW Native American pottery; and a film history talk on Alfred Hitchcock's work. Thank you to the committee which has done so much of this work.
- All the summer programs for children are also booked, including favorites such as the Magician and the snake guy as well as others.
- We have applied for a summer reading grant from the state. The \$300 grant will go towards a visit from the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum, which we are block booking with the Colchester and Milton public libraries.

Statistics remain strong and, in most cases, above the 2022 levels.

Old & Ongoing Business

Town Meeting Update: Luke and Ken were both reelected. Ken spoke during the information session the Saturday before election day. He reminded that the Library operates out of a building that costs the Town taxpayers \$0 to design and build. Also the operating budget is partially funded by taxpayers, who pay about 75%, and the South Hero Library Foundation which pays about 25%. Gratifying to see 80% approval rate from voters.

Development Committee Report: We are in the process of planning fundraising activities for this spring and summer. The annual spring appeal letter will focus on the \$57,000 needed to match the federal funding secured through Sanders' office for solar panels. The mailing will include an insert with information on adult and kids programming this summer so that people can post it on their fridge, etc. There will be corresponding publicity on the matching campaign, which will also be mentioned during summer programming so people are aware of it.

The Committee will begin planning the Worthen Society Event in the coming months but anticipate this to take place in the third week of July, on the 21st.

Solar Campaign Update: The funds need to be obligated by September 30, 2023. This means that we need to have a contract for the work.

Ken spoke with both DC Energy and Sun Common for quotes. Representative of Sun Common suggested checking with Lincoln Library.

Matt Bartle got a quote from DC Energy for a similar project and the batteries need to be tempered and installed inside. He is aware of Tesla installations but also that there are other battery manufacturers who do great things.

Ken asked for a group to help with decisions on the solar. There was a discussion about the project. Ken is working with the contractors for quotes. Also asked if there are people in town with knowledge to help with the project.

Natalie suggested we ask Global Foundries for funding. Also Community Bank.

High School Bus: KB did find a parent with a South Burlington student who is willing to be the parent representative. The issue is that most students in South Hero, who need the bus, are only using the bus for 9th grade and then they don't need the bus because once they get their licenses they are driving. However, the parent does not like the current drop off point at Town Hall. Ken was referred to Ken Jarvis at South Burlington.

LT has spoken with the Essex person and believes there will be some movement there.

New Business

Bylaws Review: As part of ongoing effort to systemize things, bylaws show up on the March to do list. However, they were just updated a few months ago. It is not anticipated that anything needs changing. Amendments made included location, mission, and powers and responsibilities of the Board of Trustees as well as a full range of other information related to the Library.

Trustee Training: There is an annual Vermont Library conference each year. It's all day April 3rd in person this year. There are many workshops. Question: Are there topics or issues related to Library work that Trustees want to learn more about? Keagan goes every year. There are several sessions on each topic. It is also inexpensive for Trustees to attend.

Next meeting will be **Tuesday, April 11, 2023**

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.