

Stowe Free Library
Minutes of Board of Directors
Akeley Building
April 7th, 2023

Call to Order: 8:04 am

Present: K.Spear, C. Maison-Kastner, A.Calvato, S.Calvo, S.Gaines, K.Kaufman, B.Mullin (zoom), C.Weber (Director)

Absent: None

At 8:10 am The Board voted on and went into an Executive Session. The Board finished the Executive Session at 8:27 am.

Minutes: Stand as read

Friends' Report: Paul Doiron is coming on May 11th. Posters and online advertising are promoting the event.

Treasurer's Report: Operating Account: \$25,528.10. Copley Fund: \$31,290.28. Endowment Fund: \$1,101,811.14.

Director's Report: Two new staff members have been hired: Maggie Wagner, ILL and Cataloger, and Molly Nesselrodt, Assistant Director and Adult Programming. There is a push to start working on social media. Bridgeside Books in Waterbury will partner with the Board to bring in authors. Trustees' Membership in VLA discussed Those interested can join at members@vermontlibraries.org. Funds to increase collection are available.

Cindy will train the new librarian, Maggie Wagner to work on Development and Digital content. Molly will work on Electronic Collection.

Trustee's Terms of Service: A.Colvato and B.Mullin (Treasurer) will be returning for their second terms. K.Kaufman and C.Maison-Kastner will have completed three terms as of April, 2024 and will be stepping down as per the By-Laws.

Rules of Conduct: The librarians have been dealing with a group of Homeless people. The issues the librarians are dealing with revolve around body odor and excessive belongings taking up space. The American Library Association has published a book related to this issue, *Librarian's Guide to Homelessness: An Empathy-Driven Approach to Solving Problems, Preventing Conflict, and Serving Everyone* by Ryan Dowd. How narrow do we want to go with our Rules of Conduct Policies? The CDC has guidelines on odor with correct verbiage about smells. What is the line of danger for the librarians? There is a panic button available to them and they are told to use it. There is discussion about situational training for the staff but mostly they should call the police if they are concerned. If they feel they are in danger the need to call 911. There was also discussion about State funding for libraries dealing with the homeless issue. New Library Standards need to be put in place in the State of Vermont.

Child Safety Policy: No changes.

Volunteer Reception: The Board is holding the Volunteer Reception on June 14th, 2023, at a Board Member's home from 3:00 to 5:30. Invitations will be sent asap. We will couple this event with an early retirement party for Cindy. There will be an official retirement reception with the Town of Stowe on June 28th at the library from 4:00 to 5:30 pm which will be advertised in Front Porch Forum, the Stowe Reporter, the library website, and social media. Select Board Members will be invited.

Strategic Plan Update: Some wording will be changed to reflect the wording of other town departments. A motion was made to approve the language changes. Motion was approved. We have an abbreviated Strategic Plan ready for publication.

Old Business: None

New Business: There was a discussion about doing something similar to the Waterbury Scavenger Hunt as a fund raiser. We could partner with The Current. A member asked to have a discussion about making the meeting room more community accessible. This will be put on the agenda for the September meeting.

Next Meeting: May 12th

Adjournment: Motion made to adjourn. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Kaufman