

Brownell Library Trustees

Meeting Minutes

August 16, 2016

Brownell Trustees in attendance: Christine Packard, Sheila Porter, Linda Costello, Dottie Bergendahl, Erin Egan (Teen Trustee), Sydney Turer (Teen Trustee), Kayley Haggerty (Teen Trustee), Penny Egan, Beth Glaspie

Brownell Staff in attendance: Hannah Tracy, Assistant Director attending for Wendy Hysko, Library Director; Erna Deutsch

Other attendees: Max Holzman

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by Christine Packard, Chair.

Kayley Haggerty is the new Teen Trustee replacing Erin Egan. Max Holzman is possibly interested in taking Daisy Benton's place on the Board.
All present briefly introduced themselves.

Agenda changes/deletions

Christine added "Presence at the Farmers' Market" to the Agenda, under "Old Business."

Minutes

Dottie offered this correction to the Financial Report from the June 21 minutes: Trustee Fund should read "\$2587."

Dottie moved to approve the minutes. Penny and Sheila seconded. All voted in favor.

Financial Report

Trustee CD = \$2,700.87

Trustee Fund = \$2,587.21

Dottie noted that the Library has spent \$65,000 less than had been budgeted for. Discussion over various reasons ensued, and it was agreed that the Library is in good shape.

Sheila moved to approve the financial report. Dottie seconded. All voted in favor.

Announcements

Hannah reminded the Board that Mary Graf's last day will be October 7 and that Mary will attend the September Board meeting. After some brainstorming, the Board decided on a retirement gift for Mary; Dottie moved to accept the idea. Penny seconded. Beth will procure the gift.

Dottie brought up the downward trend in the circulation figures over the past few years and stated that the Board needs to be prepared to answer the question of "Why?" She asked whether the Board ought to discuss other ways in which the Library is serving the public, as part of that answer.

It was noted that school population has gone down and that population trends do tend to affect library activity.

Relative to the recent upheaval resulting from the carpet replacement and all that it entailed, including operating out of a satellite branch, Dottie moved that the Staff be thanked for “getting through it.” Linda seconded.

Foundation Report

Dottie read the line-up for this season’s First Wednesdays series by the Vermont Humanities Council. The line-up includes authors, historians, a museum director, professors, and more, with at least one event to be held at the Ira Allen Chapel.

Dottie announced that the Secretary of State has acknowledged the Friends-Foundation merger. The Foundation is presently writing the new by-laws, which she said should be ready by the time of the Foundation meeting next month.

The Foundation will have a work meeting on Sept. 29 at 6:30 in the Book Room. Anyone interested in helping maintain the Book Room are invited to attend. This includes Trustees as well as those not on the Board who would like to volunteer at Brownell but prefer to just help with the Book Room. Spread the word. Dottie reminded the Board that the Foundation is looking for one more Trustee to join them.

The Foundation will likely have a Book Room Committee headed by a Foundation member.

Old Business

Christine provided an update on the status and work of the Recreation Governance Committee, of which she is a member.

The Lake Monsters fundraiser generated \$65, with 26 tickets sold.

The Library will have a table at the September 16 Five Corners Farmers’ Market, covered with a new customized tablecloth. The table will be staffed by Linda and Penny from 3:30 – 6:30pm. Dottie will also be there if she is available.

Brochures announcing fall programming will be available, as well as other fun stuff, to be determined. Penny and Hannah will work together on this. Dottie will ask Christine Baker if the Foundation would be willing to provide some books to be given away.

Dottie shared that the Foundation had received a donation from the son of Ginny Powers, a longtime friend, supporter, volunteer, board member, and employee of the Library. She passed away in February. There was discussion of what to do to honor her memory.

The discussion was tabled for the next Board meeting. Hannah was asked to ask Staff to think on this matter.

Dottie moved to adjourn at 8:20pm. Sheila seconded.

Minutes submitted by Beth Glaspie.