

\*\*\*\*\*DRAFT\*\*\*\*\*

## **Worthen Library**

Monthly Meeting – Board of Trustees

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

### **Attending:**

Board members: Natalie Kendrach, Liz Wirsing, Gabby Ramseyer, Kristen Bartle, Ken Kowalewitz

Recording Secretary: Mary Harwood

Library Director: Keagan Calkins

Members of the public: None

Call to order @ 6:04 PM

### **Preliminary Business**

- **Review payment orders for approval:** Bills are circulating for approval.
- **Agenda adjustments:** None.
- **Public Comment:** None
- **Review and accept the minutes from the previous monthly meeting:** KB moved to accept the minutes from December 10, 2024. NK seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

### **Library Director's Report:**

- Heidi has painted a community Art Tree in the picture book section of the library. The idea is to keep a rotating display of art made by the community.
- "Noon Year's Eve" was a big hit with approximately 70 people. Siberian Sled Dogs was a successful program with 57 people present.
- Winter Wednesdays are starting tomorrow with a bread making class from Jackie Major. Three of the five Winter Wednesday classes sold out almost immediately.
- We have new art work by Sharon Radtke hanging in the Jude Schofield Reading Lounge.
- Our new TonieBox has been very popular with lots of checkouts of the Tonies and TonieBox. The box also inspired a lot of Christmas gifts. The library will be purchasing another TonieBox for families to borrow.
- Internet filters and policy. The Library does not have filters on any computers. Keagan has looked at other public libraries and most do not have filters due to freedom of information. One suggestion is to have a games only computer in the kids section that

would not allow extra curricular searches, etc. Kristen will research solutions and bring to the next meeting. There may also be changes made to the policy statement.

**Statistics:** Listen Up Vermont usage is up over last year. Other usage is commensurate with 2023. Kanopy plays are up from 2023.

### **Old & Ongoing Business**

**Solar Project Update:** All panels installed. Library panels are operational. CHC panels are waiting for activation of the Enphase connection. GMS has been paid in full. Keagan and Ken will do final reporting and invoicing to request reimbursement of the \$57,000 DOE grant. Marty Kiser will also explore the possibility of the federal tax credit.

The Enphase program will provide a real time report of the electrical output and will be displayed on a monitor on the main floor of the Library and be able to be seen online as well. The energy generated has already reduced electrical costs for the December bill.

**Year End Development Committee Report:** 2024 ended with the exact same number of donors as 2023. Donor retention remains level over last year. A total of over \$107,000 was raised and the average gift was over \$500 per donor. Thank you! The Development Committee will be working on ways to energize donors and gain more new donors.

Donation Statements will be sent to all of last year's donors via email or snail mail by the end of January.

### **Review Annual Calendar**

The calendar of monthly meeting topics for Trustee meetings was reviewed. It was noted that candidate names for Town Meeting and signatures need to be secured in January to ensure they are on the ballot. Ken and Gabby need to get petitions signed to have their names appear on the March ballot. .

### **New Business**

**Quarterly Budget review** Expenses in this quarter is lower than other quarters during the year as it falls between heavy programming periods. Otherwise, spending and income are on par with the budget. The Town has yet to bill the Library for any payroll expenses this fiscal year.

**2024 Outstanding Service Award** Trustees chose the recipient of the annual Outstanding Service Award.

The next meeting will be **Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in person.** Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

☒ Ken

- ☒ Natalie
- ☒ Liz
- ☐ Keagan
- ☒ Kristen
- ☐ Gabby