

*****DRAFT*****

Worthen Library

Monthly Meeting – Board of Trustees

Tuesday, April 8, 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: Gretchen Patterson

Call to order @ 6:06 PM

Preliminary Business

- **Review payment orders for approval:** Bills are circulating for approval.
- **Agenda adjustments:** Kristen requested the solar project ribbon cutting be added to the agenda.
- **Public Comment:** Gretchen is here to discuss and make comments on an agenda item.
- **Review and accept the minutes from the previous monthly meeting:** LW moved to accept the minutes from March 11, 2025. NK seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

Library Director's Report:

- The Vermont book awards for 25/26 have been announced (Red Clover, Golden Dome, Green Mountain). All the books not already owned have been ordered. Keagan is hoping to go to the school regularly to read the books and perhaps do a craft. She will also work on a way for kids to vote on the titles.
- This year's summer activities have been finalized.
- The Passion Project only had two participants this year so the event was cancelled. Next year past participants will be encouraged to once again take part.
- Winter Wednesdays have concluded. Thank you to all the presenters, the South Hero Land Trust, and Health Roots Collaborative.
- The Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) has been shuttered. As a result there have been a lot of posts about petitions, etc. This feels like an opportunity, even if it is political, to take a stand since it directly affects the library. This will greatly affect the whole Vermont system and will affect interlibrary loans as well as access to audio and

ebooks. Staff may also lose jobs, taking state services away from libraries. The state is working with UVM to hopefully provide interlibrary loans.

- There has been an upsurge in community room use requests for non-profits and kids parties. A great untold success of the library. A question was raised about security and access to the library. In all cases so far, it's been someone Keagan knows. She can also check in remotely via her phone and the camera system.
- Supplies request: Does anyone have 2L plastic bottles or toys for the library?
- Put your chickens on your hats and get ready: May 3rd is the Kentucky Derby!
- Discussion of the website proposal from Fronetics. The company is based out of Massachusetts, but our primary contact is a South Hero resident. A motion was made by KB to approve the proposal from Fronetics.com for restructuring of the Worthen Library website in the amount of \$3,000. Seconded by LW. Passed unanimously.

Statistics: Listen Up Vermont usage is up over last year. Other usage is commensurate with 2024.

Old & Ongoing Business

Solar Project Update: All panels are now working! There will be an additional \$200 per year added to the Library building insurance. The panels on the Wallys building will also be insured and will be added to the condominium insurance policy and the Library will pay the extra premium Ken will call Kinney to put that in effect and confirm the premium amount.

Keagan has been told by the DOE that the reimbursement payment has been sent but it has yet to appear in the bank account. Keagan will not change the name on the bank account until this payment is received so that the name change of the Foundation doesn't complicate things.

The required educational display component is being developed by Keagan with help from Greg Lowe. The educational component is basically a screen to illustrate energy production from the panels and sharing of information with the public.

The Trustees held a mock ribbon cutting to celebrate the installation of the solar panels, as well as, to meet one of the requirements of the DOE. We will still reach out to Bernie to see if it is possible to get on his calendar for the Worthen Society Celebration this summer, where we could do the "real" ribbon cutting ceremony.

Development Committee Report:

Plans are underway for another Kentucky Derby Day at the Winery, Saturday, May 3, with live viewing of the race. There will be free hors d'oeuvres and drinks available for purchase. There will also be kids events. All sponsors have already renewed their support.

Ken and Kathleen Swanson are working with a group of high net individuals in the community with a goal of securing more gifts for the endowment.

The Dev Committee will be working on a spring appeal to be sent in May. They will also develop publicity around the renaming of the South Hero Library Foundation to the Worthen Library Foundation. Another publicity project will be to work with Keagan on the public display and to share this information, and the success of the solar panels, with the community.

Library Recognition and Display Follow-up: Last month there was a conversation about the request to display a photograph of a late donor and her family. Gretchen Patterson spoke on the subject, with the argument that we already have ways to acknowledge financial support and acknowledgement should be consistent.

The past donor in discussion has already been well represented and remembered. Photos of individual donors seem to go above and beyond the sense of equality and proportion.

Existing plaques are well done and low key as well as consistent.

There needs to be a more robust policy related to gift acceptance and displays. The policy needs to ensure uniformity and keep recognitions low-key. This can be added to policy review. The policy needs to also bridge both the Foundation and the Library. Language will be developed and discussed in future meetings.

New Business

Quarterly Budget Review: The capital improvement funds are deposited in a separate account at Community Bank. Keagan fielded questions on line items. The Town is now current with employee pay. The fourth quarter report will be the most important, as it comes at the end of the fiscal year.

Summer Maintenance: The building was power washed last year. It doesn't need to be done again. There are needs for touch-up paint. Ken has a list of items to be addressed. Some items can be done by volunteers but some may need professional help. Keagan and Ken will reach out to a local handyman.

Tent Setup: Part of the tent set up may be repainting or replacing the boards for the Fourth of July float. Matt Bartle will bring them over to the library in a few weeks - after vacation week.

Most of the events held in the tent are geared towards kids. Tent discussion tabled for May.

The next meeting will be **Wednesday, May 14, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. in person.** Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.