

Worthen Library

Monthly Meeting – Board of Trustees

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

Attending:

Board members: Ken Kowalewitz, Liz Wirsing, Luke Tremble, Kristen Bartle

Absent: Natalie Kendrach

Library Director: Keagan Calkins

Members of the public: None

Call to order @ 6:04 PM

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. None
- **Public Comment:** None
- **Review and accept the minutes from the previous monthly meeting:** The minutes from the September 12, 2023 meeting were brought for approval. LW 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.

- Met with South Hero Land Trust to plan Winter Wednesdays 2024. Hoping to offer a combination of smaller workshops and larger classes and lectures.
- The Fairy Tale festival was great. Champlain Islands Libraries have talked about planning a similar festival for the Islands/Franklin County.
- Friends of the Library started to ask for baskets for the gala, Thursday December 7.
- Passion Project has moved up to March 27th in the hopes participants aren't as busy and may have an opportunity to work on projects during February break.
- Wonderbooks are new in the Library. They are audiobooks attached to a print book.
- Jeff Nagle, who made the Jude's reading lounge, is making hooks for Arlo's backpacks. The sign will be made inhouse using the Glowforge.

Statistics: Everything is slightly down but the weather has been really nice.

Old & Ongoing Business

Development Committee Report: Solar donations are still coming in. We're getting ready for the Fall appeal, which should be ready for personalization in about two weeks.

We've raised more than last year overall, but with restricted gifts for solar panels, we're a bit behind last year. However, last year we had a \$50K stock gift and a \$15K grant. So we're doing a bit better than two years ago!

Request has been submitted to the anonymous Foundation for \$100,000 over four years.

We were turned down for the Art and Social Cohesion grant from the Vermont Community Foundation which would have funded the mural. Keagan suggested talking to the Friends and have them dedicate their work to this purpose over the next year.

Fall appeal is in the works and letters should be here within two weeks.

Solar project update and selection of vendors: One of the quotes is from DC Energy. However, they are going out of business. Keagan has reached out to two more vendors and they will come to do site visits. Kristen organized a meeting with several local volunteers to discuss how to structure the project. Nick Lane used to work for DC Energy and has deep experience. Rich Goggin sits on the VEC Board. Both are consumers of solar and have a lot of knowledge about energy. Question was raised about spending the money for battery backups when they may be redundant to other existing community resources. Recommendation is to maximize the panels on the roof (and possible elsewhere on the property) to maximize the power generated. Next step is to get vendors in.

We've got a few details still hanging with the DOE, but they are in the weeds of ending the federal budget year so won't get back to us until November.

New Business

Quarterly budget review: Tabled until November.

2024/25 Budget adoption: Proposed budget includes a 5.2% increase in the request to the Town. It includes a modest salary increase for staff. Several expense items have gone up.

KK made a motion to approve the 2024-25 budget of \$165,573.64, of which \$125,960 will be raised by taxes, representing a 5.2% increase. KB motion, LW seconded. Passed unanimously.

Executive Session: Entered Executive Session 7:08 PM to discuss a confidential negotiation. Exited at 7:29PM.

Next meeting will be **Tuesday, November 14, 2023**. Meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm.