

Worthen Library

Monthly Meeting – Board of Trustees

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Attending:

Board members: Ken Kowalewitz, Natalie Kendrach, Liz Wirsing, Luke Tremble

Absent: Kristen Bartle

Library Director: Keagan Calkins

Members of the public: None

Call to order @ 6:03 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 July 11, 2023 meeting were brought for approval. LW motioned that the minutes be accepted. LT seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

Library Director's Report: Report submitted by Keagan Calkins (KC), reviewed by Board.

- We had a great summer with 16 kids events (plus weekly storytimes) and 10 summer speakers. With over 1,000 attendees.
- A big thank you to Heidi and Marguerite for making this summer such a success.
- We have applied for the Courier Grant for 2023-2024
- Keagan will be headed to the Fairy Tale Festival this weekend with the other Island libraries. We come armed with a plinko Star Wars game and prizes.
- Kristin Wandasiewicz has been trained and is subbing at the library. She has been indispensable during the back to school transition.
- We have new kids' graphic novel shelves. Thank you to my aunt Kelly for delivering them to us in her truck from NH.
- Arlo's backpacks are ready to lend! Three have gone out already and we've gotten some positive feedback.
- A robotics club and a cribbage club will start in October.

- October 1-7 is banned books week. Book club in October will be centered on banned books and we will have a big display of banned books upstairs.
- AV update. There are some issues that are being worked on.

Statistics: Book lending has been steady from last year as well as use of other resources.

Old & Ongoing Business

Worthen Society Celebration: The event was well attended. People liked the ability to chat with neighbors instead of sitting through a lot of palaver. Worked well to be upstairs. Need to make sure everything is set up ahead of time.

Development Committee Report: We easily raised the match for the solar panels. To date, \$59,170 has been donated.

Overall, we have raised over \$92,000 this year, which is approximately \$40,000 above the same amount last year, which can be accounted for by special grants for the solar panels.

We were invited to submit a full proposal for the Art and Social Cohesion grant from the Vermont Community Foundation. We should receive word on this grant, which will fund the mural project, by next week or so.

The Development Committee will begin working on the fall appeal, which we hope can be sent before the end of October. As with other appeals, we will have about 250 letters separated out for personalization.

Solar project update and selection of vendors: Ken, Keagan, Marty Kiser and Mary Harwood worked on the application and other forms required by the Department of Energy and submitted them in August. Waiting to hear if all is in order or if more work will be required. Approval won't come for 2 to 3 months.

We have quotes from Suncommon and DC Energy and are evaluating them. Work will most likely be done in 2024. Ken will work with Kristen Bartle to recruit a committee to work with the Trustees.

New Business

2024-25 budget development: Increase should reflect cost increases. Suggestion is 5% increase. Last year was a higher inflation year. Keagan will create a suggested budget reflecting \$7,000 in additional expenses to present at the October Trustees meeting.

HOA fees are \$7,300, which is in the budget. It pays for accounting fees for the association, insurance liability premium, and snowplowing and maintenance, trash and recycling, and septic, plus repairs. Allocation is by square footage of the building.

Fall/Winter Maintenance: Still need to deal with heating/plumbing issues. A bookshelf needs fixing once the heat pump is repaired. Paint touch ups will be done.

Tent is ready to come down. Natalie will recruit some volunteers.

Other business:

Next meeting will be **Tuesday, October 10, 2023**. Meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm.