

*****DRAFT*****

Worthen Library

Monthly Meeting – Board of Trustees

Tuesday, September 10, 2024 by Zoom

Attending:

Board members: Natalie Kendrach, Liz Wirsing, Gabby Ramseyser, and Kristen Bartle

Recording Secretary: Mary Harwood

Library Director: Keagan Calkins

Members of the public: None

Call to order @ 7:05 PM

Preliminary Business

- **Review payment orders for approval:** Summary of Bills will be left at the library desk for review after the meeting.
- **Agenda adjustments:** Kristen Bartle (KB) asks if there are any adjustments to the agenda. None
- **Public Comment:** None
- **Review and accept the minutes from the previous monthly meeting:** LW moved to accept the minutes from July 9, 2024. NK seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

Library Director's Report:

- We had a great summer with 16 kids events (plus weekly storytimes) and 8 summer speakers. All but two of summer speakers “sold out”: and record breaking numbers for kids events.
- The two events geared towards adolescents were not successful this year and had zero attendance.
- We have applied for the Courier Grant for 2024-2025. It covers half of the courier payments.
- CHIL (Champlain Islands Libraries) went to the farmer’s market this summer. We had crafts, our plinko board, games, and giveaways. It was a lot of fun and we reached many more of our patrons than heading to the Fairy Tale Festival in Killington.
- There have been reports of “First Amendment Rights” activists in Franklin county. To prepare for a visit we’ve added “Staff Only” to closets and office spaces. This is to protect staff.

- Arlo's backpacks sign has been installed. Thank you Eben for installing and to Jessica Jackson for the stenciling!
- 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.
- The friends of the library have started collecting for the basket raffle this winter.
- Speaker series group is hoping to expand their numbers. Does anyone have suggestions for people who may be interested?
- We have two new exciting partnerships this month. GlobalFoundries is coming to run a science program and Helen Bishop is going to be running a monthly PJ Storytime!

Statistics: Ebooks and audiobooks are down from last year as are book loans. Kanopy visits are way up but plays are down.

Old & Ongoing Business

Worthen Society Celebration Report: Attendance was down this year. The suggestion has been made to coordinate our date with CIDER to avoid them holding their major event on the same day, as that creates a conflict for many people. Suggestions made to make it more playful and to include activities and games such as corn hole. We also discussed the possibility of hosting it outside under the portico.

Development Committee Report: Gifts year to date are about \$55,000. This is less than the same time last year. The main difference is that last spring was the push to match the solar panel funding. Plans are underway for a fall mailing in October. Stay tuned for more information!

Solar project update: We continue to make edits as requested by the DOE and have moved onto a third level process and hopefully we'll be done. The 260 US Route 2 Condominium Association met on August 13, 2024 via Zoom and unanimously approved the Resolution allowing addition of solar panels on the Library and the Wallys building and a License Agreement outlining the responsibilities of the Library and the Condo Association relating to the solar project. Ken and Gabby attended the meeting.

New Business

2025-26 budget development: Keagan's dream for this year's budget is to mostly eliminate electrical and distribute it to staff to flat fund the Library. Any increase will likely be for staff raises. In preparation for an October discussion, Keagan will prepare an idea for the proposed budget.

Strategic Plan Check In: The plan goes through 2026. What have we achieved? Passion Project has taken off and helps with the tweens and teens. Better use of outdoor space. Increase non-book items - Arlo Backpacks fit this bill. People love toys, games, LEGO sets, museum passes. Out of town people want things they're used to having at home. Question raised about strengthening partnerships with Island towns. They all have boards of trustees. Isle La Motte is a

volunteer run entity. A good example is working together at Farmer's Markets in the summer. Suggestion made to get together with trustees from other towns. Discussion about website updates. Kristen will look at the website to see where we might improve it.

Fall/Winter Maintenance: This will be tabled until Ken returns for the October meeting. However, the tent has to come down. Plans are to do it September 18.

The next meeting will be **Tuesday, October 8, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in person.** Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.

- Ken
- Natalie
- tiz
- Keagan
- Kristen
- Gabby