

Worthen Library

Monthly Meeting – Board of Trustees

Tuesday, February 11, 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 @ 6:05 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:** NK moved to accept the minutes from January 14, 2025. LW seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

Library Director's Report:

- Keagan has completed the annual report for the state.
- Worthen Library has joined Mango Language Courses. Mango is a language learning website available for free to all South Hero Worthen Library Patrons.
- We have applied for the summer performer grant through the state of Vermont. This year the grant is for \$350 and will go towards the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum presentation.
- Worthen Library hours will be changing starting 02/24. The library will be open until 6pm on Mondays and Wednesdays. Wednesday evening programs will continue.
- Amber, one of our amazing substitutes, will be working on our branding to make promotional material more streamlined.
- Greg Lowe: Worthen Library Hero Extraordinaire. Greg has fixed our 3D printer!
- In January an electrician installed two data ports in the community room.
- Ken has hung artwork by Jennifer Buckner upstairs in the library window. It's lovely and hangs perfectly. Thank you Ken!

- Keagan will be on vacation from 2/21 to 3/3.

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

Old & Ongoing Business

Solar Project Update: The second set of panels on the Wallys building are now active. Both are working and generating electricity. For comparison, the December electric bill was about \$700 and the January \$500, indicating that the panels are already saving on costs. The system generated about 1500 KWH in the January measurement period. All the required documentation has been submitted to the Dept of Energy for substantiation of the costs.. We cannot submit for reimbursement, which is the \$57,000 grant, as the links for submission are inactive due to a pause (we hope) in the Federal payment systems. The DOE has acknowledged our issue and told us that they will report back to us when they know more.

Website Redesign: We have received a proposal from a firm to redesign the website. Kristen asked several questions related to the proposed redesign. The quote includes a discount for nonprofit status.

Question asked: What is the hope for the website? What do we want out of it? We need to clarify and condense information.

Discussion centered around getting another quote to compare, using the expertise of a Library employee to give us input, working with the Foundation to determine appropriate content, and reviewing other like Library websites for ideas

New Business

Vermont Act 150 requirements and compliance: VT Dept of Libraries has informed us of a new law for libraries, Act 150, regarding materials selection policies and procedures. They require work to be done by July 1, 2025. This includes a reconsideration and retention policy. Note that libraries are not required to adopt any model policy of the department. Rather, we can choose to adopt them or develop our own

The Trustees have done significant work already on policy and procedures, and have addressed many of the issues they are suggesting in the Policy manual revision adopted March 12, 2024. We will need to compare their model policies once they are released to see where changes may need to be made.

Kristen is continuing to look at ways to protect children using the internet. This will also be addressed in future policy updates.

Donor List Maintenance: This item refers to making sure we catch new people moving into town, people leaving, and people who have died. This will be a big help to the foundation.

March 1, 2025 Town meeting preparation: Meeting will be held at Folsom. Ken will be happy to, once

again, address the meeting. The message is to stress flat funding of next year's budget request, as well as the fact that the Worthen Library was designed and built at no cost to taxpayers. s.

The next meeting will be **Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in person.** Meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm.

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