

*****DRAFT*****

Worthen Library

Monthly Meeting – Board of Trustees

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Attending:

Board members: Natalie Kendrach, Liz Wirsing, Gabby Ramseyer, Kristen Bartle

Absent: Ken Kowalewitz

Recording Secretary: Mary Harwood

Library Director: Keagan Calkins

Members of the public: Gretchen Patterson

Call to order @ 6:00 PM

Election of Officers: Congrats to Gabby and Ken on their reelection.

LW nominated Ken Kowalewitz as Chair. KB seconded. Passed unanimously.

GR nominated Kristen Bartle as secretary. NK seconded. Passed unanimously.

KB nominated Liz Wirsing as treasurer. GR seconded. Passed unanimously.

Preliminary Business

- **Review payment orders for approval:** Bills are circulating for approval.
- **Agenda adjustments:** None.
- **Public Comment:** Gretchen Patterson brought a public concern regarding recognition of people in the library. She articulated that the majority of acknowledgments take the form of modest plaques with donor's names around the building. However, one recognition, in particular, casts a shadow over the others, creating a sense of imbalance. Jude Scofield is currently honored in the Reading Lounge with a substantially sized wooden sign and a beautifully crafted table. Gretchen believes that the recent donation featuring a portrait of Jude (also requested to be featured in the Reading Lounge) borders on excess. In contrast, Ed Worthen, whose generosity of \$1.5 million is honored with the building's name and a few subtle nods, has no photo-recognition or additional memorial dedication anywhere to be found in the Library.
- This situation beckons contemplation on the nuances of donation policies and the manner in which individuals are commemorated within a library's embrace. Other

naming opportunities have adhered to the tradition of understated plaques. It also prompts inquiries into the processes behind these decisions. This important discussion will be considered in an upcoming meeting focused on the library's approach to accepting and honoring donations.

- **Review and accept the minutes from the previous monthly meeting:** LW moved to accept the minutes from February 11, 2025. KB seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

Library Director's Report:

- The Vermont Department of Libraries has discontinued the Swank license, which allowed film showings in the library. They have discontinued it based on low movie usage.
- Summer Speaker series has been finalized and dates and titles were distributed to Trustees. Presentations include the UVM Men's Soccer Coach among others. The topics are quite diverse.
- The 5th annual seed swap will be held in conjunction with the South Hero Land Trust. Helen Bishop will be here to do a seed themed storytime and we will have door prizes and crafts for kids.
- The Passion Project event will be held Thursday, March 20th, 6-7 pm.

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

Old & Ongoing Business

Development Committee Report: A committee is actively planning a second Kentucky Derby Day in partnership with the Winery. They have already secured several return sponsors for the event. The event will be held Saturday, May 3, with live viewing of the race. There will be free refreshments and drinks available for purchase. There will also be kids events.

Solar Project Update: Solar panels on the library building are working great but the other panels are not working. The installers have been working on the problem. These panels are not yet generating energy. The Foundation is paying for the first bill for the meter that manages the panels but will not pay additional bills until the panels start producing.

We have submitted the first quarterly report, which covers the bulk of the activity. It has been accepted. A request for reimbursement has also been submitted for most of the \$57,000 grant. There is still an educational component and a ribbon cutting, which may need to be more informal as Bernie's time is tight. The informal cutting will take place at the next Trustees meeting. The educational component is basically a screen to illustrate energy production from the panels.

Website Redesign Next Steps: Keagan has met with a local designer who is putting together a portfolio, who has a more reasonable approach to the cost and complexity of one of the quotes. It will include social media, worthen.org email addresses, etc.

New Business

By Laws Check In: In the bylaws it says they will be reviewed every five years. The last review was in 2022. There was discussion regarding whether there is a need for the bylaws to be revised for the open meeting law, which requires a recording of the meeting to be posted. Research will be done regarding whether it needs to be done or not. Kristen has made a suggested change to Article III Section 4 of the [Bylaws](#) for the Board to review at next meeting.

The next meeting will be **Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in person.** Meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm.

- Ken
- Natalie
- Liz
- Keagan
- Kristen
- Gabby