

QPL Trustees Meeting 8/12/2024

Present: Tommy Bauch (President), Dave Izzo (Treasurer), Debbie Marcus (Secretary), Jim Schmidt (Trustee), Kate Schaal (Library Director), Robert Hamlin (Observer), Erica Wetzel (Trustee), Mark Bradley (Trustee), Anne Clemens (Observer).

The hybrid meeting opened at 5:01 pm on 8/12/2024. Minutes from the May 2024 meeting had been distributed earlier. Motion to approve the Minutes for May 2024 was entered by Dave, seconded by Debbie. All approved.

Public Comment: Bob H. gave 2 thumbs up for the Summer Reading Challenge Celebration event.

Treasurer's Report: Dave reported he is still working to align the new online Quickbooks version with the report format we are used to viewing. This will be accomplished hopefully soon. The Checking Account and Investment Account are doing OK. The next Town check will arrive shortly. Upgrading staff technology is under consideration, including at Wilder. Public use machines should be upgraded, as well, but do not need as large memory space. The next Budget preparation is underway. QPL will seek a level-funded budget request. Dave noted the payroll figures for July were higher than usual because there were 3 pay periods in July 2024, not the unusual 2. Jim entered a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report; Erika seconded. All approved.

Librarian's Report: Kate referred to Anne Clemens and Sue Fosdick as potential new Trustees. Circulation in July was good. The Summer Reading Challenge event and visit by the Town Manager was very successful. There were a large number of raffle entries. Kate promoted the 3rd Thursday Wilder Club and Library event. In September local author Sarah Stewart Taylor will appear to present her new book. Bugbee Book Club members will be included. Vermont Humanities expert discussion facilitator Suzanne Brown will be leading 2 events, including a Vermont Reads multi-generational event in September for Gather by Kenneth Cadow. A Mindfulness program is scheduled for September. Kate touched on the topic of First Amendment Audits, and will expand on this later. One other concern is homeless people occupying the Wilder portico to access

WiFi. This will be monitored. Debbie entered a motion to approve the Director's Report: Dave seconded. All approved.

New Business: Anne Clemens was introduced and shared a short statement about her professional and service activities. She has served on the boards of several upper valley non-profits. She feels public libraries are vitally important to local communities and would make the time to accept a role with the QPL Board.

Kate presented the First Amendment Audit policy and concerns. One action is to update QPL's policy to include the Vermont Department of Libraries content. Discussion ensued about what practices to maintain if a citizen tests their constitutional right to photograph or video verbal engagements in the public space in the library. We all need to learn more about the potential intent of First Amendment Audits.

Old Business: Kate welcomed new Trustee, Erika.

Next Meeting: September 9, 2024

Motion of Adjourn was made by Dave, seconded by Jim. All approved.