

Draft Minutes of Quechee Library Trustees' Meeting  
Feb. 12, 2024

Attending: Tommy Bauch (President), Mark Bradley (Trustee), Brian Chaboyer (secretary), Bill Eastwood (Trustee), Dave Izzo (Treasurer), Debbie Marcus (Trustee), Kate Schaal (Library Director), Jim Schmidt (Trustee), Robert Hamlin

**Minutes of the Jan. 8 meeting were approved.**

Public Comments: None.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dave provided an overview of his written report. Expenses are pretty much in line with our budget, though our electrical use has gone up considerably, while our use of propane bill is down. Michaela's hours have increased, and our payroll will start catching up to the YTD budget. The annual appeal went well and total contributions were up by \$1500 compared to this time last year. We are expecting the Town Appropriation check in the next few weeks.

**The report was unanimously accepted (moved by Debbie, seconded by Bill).**

**Library Director's Report:** Kate Schaal presented her written report. **The report was unanimously accepted (moved by Dave, seconded by Bill )**, with a discussion of a few issues:

1. Thanks to everyone for attending.
2. The library continues to feel a bit busier than than last year. Circulation was decent, up 2% from last January.
3. The US capital needs fund (filtered though the state Department of Libraries) is very competitive and is for major expenses (between \$300,000 and \$1.4 million). It is quite a bit of work to put together (need bids, etc). The major point of the grant is to increase internet accessibility and so seems most appropriate for Wilder. Grant is due in mid-March.
4. Michaela is enjoying the graduate program, particularly the adult services course.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Brian has questioned the accuracy of the 'Resources to Support Trustees' Work' document, put out by the Department of Libraries (updated in March 2023), as it states that incorporated libraries are not subject to the Vermont Open Meeting law. However, the 'Vermont Statutes and Standards Related to Libraries', put out by the Department of Libraries in May 2023, clearly states incorporated libraries are public libraries and so are subject to the Open Meeting law. Reading the Vermont Statutes Online, they clearly state

that an incorporated library is a public library (22 V.S.A. §101). The Vermont Open meeting law (1 V.S.A. §311) applies to all ‘public commissions, boards, and councils and other public agencies in this State’ and further states (1 V.S.A. §317) that a public agency is ‘any agency, board, committee, department, branch, instrumentality, commission, or authority of any political subdivision of the State’. This was mentioned by Kate at recent meeting of the Vermont Library Association meeting, but this issue has not been clarified by the Department of Libraries.

All of the public computers are getting old, so it is time to consider upgrading them, along with the staff computers, including computers at Wilder. Dave will look into options over the next few months.

We should invite the new town manager to either a board meeting, or to some event we host.

Next Regular Meeting: March 11 at 5pm.

Meeting adjourned at 5:28 pm EDT