

# **Baxter Memorial Library Trustee Meeting**

## **Minutes**

July 18, 2024, 6pm

In attendance: Finnie Trimpi, Judy Moore, Emma Basham, Shana Hickman, Will Godfrey, Karen Rodis

This meeting was held in-person at the library.

**1. The meeting began at 6pm**

**2. Karen is recording the meeting in accordance with Vermont's new Open Meeting law. She will email this to Nicola or upload it to the dropbox.**

**3. Emma moved to discuss item 7 (Expansion) first.**

The town failed to get the state grant for the Vermont Trust Initiative, so for the moment the expansion is paused. There is still the capital grant in the fall for libraries. We are waiting for information about that. The school board is open to sharing space with the Baxter Library if it is in the interest of the community but there are questions about what that would look like. A few other models for town libraries were discussed. The Baxter library is a great building and it is important to keep using it as a library, but we are open to ideas for expanding into other spaces. Shana questioned whether more people would use the library even if it was expanded. Judy suggested a space like a yurt for teen or adult programs because the septic system has limitations. You can't build a second story up towards the roof because of historic building regulations. The basement is unusable because of the heat pump that is down there. Emma and Finnie talked about other libraries in our area that have a children's space and study areas and are well utilized. Seven Stars was raised as a possible collaborator and space-sharer, but their septic and well system are big questions. Emma recommends talking to Ken about a collaboration with the church since the church might be a good match for the trust grant. Judy is going to look further into the septic system to see about the possibility of a waiver. The library could possibly buy the property next door if that ever became available and expand in different ways.

The town will be paving the Seven Stars lot and address the drainage problem. It won't cover the grass on the side of the ramp. Since the grant will come available we discussed pursuing improving the accessibility ramp and bringing it up to code. By

expanding the ramp and adding an enclosed landing, that area might be used for other purposes. Judy will talk with Ira Clark about a design.

#### **4.. Approved Minutes from June 2024.**

#### **5. Reviewed and Signed Warrants**

#### **6. Reviewed Financials.**

Dividends are the same as last year. We are doing very well with fundraising this year, helped in large part by our online giving portal. Our program and operating expenses from FY23 are almost identical! The trustees questioned if the anonymous \$5K grant is being applied to the donations and fundraising category. Emma will ask Lucy where it is being applied. Karen asked for a breakdown of fundraising and donations for FY23 so that we can analyze and strategize our FY24 efforts. Emma will create a Google sheet that we can use to sort donations for the upcoming year.

#### **4. Librarian's Report and updates:**

- a. June statistics were up from last June across all areas: checkouts, Overdrive, visits, and website views
- b. Lots of summer reading program participation. Weekly program attendance is great, special events have been small.
- c. Upcoming programs:
  - i. Adopt a Stuffy Day has 10 kids signed up
  - ii. Storytelling Event Sept. 26 modeled after the MOTH events. Hosted by Samara Anderson from Monkton. Shana will advertise for storytellers in Sharon and other towns.
  - iii. Beekeeping 101 with Mary Stoddard late winter.
- d. Old Home Day is Saturday August 10. Shana will make some small fliers for upcoming programs. Emma suggests asking volunteers to help man the table. Finnie mentioned we are having a hard time getting Saturday volunteers for August. She will reach out to ask for 3 volunteers: one in the library, two at the table at the school for different shifts. Shana will email the committee to confirm times.
- e. Shana needs coverage for Sept. 12 when she will be at the ASRL conference. We will try to find a volunteer.
- f. Our chalkboard sign is difficult to take on and off the posts. Finnie will ask Josh Trimpi to take a look at it.
- g. Shana will email Nicola that we would prefer pavers for the walkway.

**5. Public Comment: none**

**6. New Business:**

Summer reading program party: August 17 @ 2-4pm. Finnie will ask for volunteers to help set up at 1:30pm. Kids will get prizes and the jar of candy winner will be announced. We will buy chips, popsicles, and drinks for about 15 kids; we have paper goods leftover from previous functions. Emma will email Mary to coordinate the balloon animals artist visit and email Emerson to see if he can play.

**7. Meeting Adjourned at 7:38pm.**