

Groton Free Public Library, Groton VT

Board of Trustees Meeting

Thursday, May 2, 2024 – 6:30 p.m.

The duly warned meeting of the Library Trustees was held at the Groton Free Public Library on May 2, 2024.

In Attendance:

Trustees Jennie Gaiss, Wayne Knott, Deborah Jurist, Donna Russo-Savage (remotely), Dawn Evans, and Librarian Sarah Spira.

The meeting was called to order by Jennie Gaiss at 6:32 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Deborah Jurist moved approval of the April 10, 2023, minutes. Wayne Knott seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Deborah Jurist reported on where we are at 33% of the budget year. Everything is on track.

Library Director's Report:

Sarah and the trustees discuss strategies for communicating with RuralEdge about following up on reported issues and problems.

Sarah thanks Deborah for working with her on the process of recruiting, interviewing, and hiring a library assistant. We have hired Cereniti Echevarria and Jennifer Cowhig. They will begin on May 15. They're both excited about starting. They bring different skill sets. We will have 18 hours/week available for the remainder of the year, because of not having hired anyone until May. We would hope to increase the budget for next year to facilitate having them able to work a combined total of 18 hours/week.

Sarah has found a TV arm that will cost \$100 which she is going to order. She will let RuralEdge know that it is being installed.

Gary and Terrence still need to come back to complete work on internet enhancement.

Crafts & Conversations are now meeting weekly, which is great.

On Green Up Day, May 4, Sarah will have bags available and there will be coffee and muffins on hand.

Summer programming includes a June 7th program called Catching People's Stories, to be presented by Jane Beck who is the director emeritus and founder of the Vermont Folklife Center. This program is supported by the Vermont Humanities Council.

Friends of the Library are supporting a summer program by Meredith Holch, who has previously done a Crankie Show that included making your own Crankie.

On June 27th, the VEducation Van will conduct a workshop on cooking with seasonal vegetables.

On July 20th there will be a program celebrating Smokey the Bear's 80th birthday. The county fire warden and the Groton Fire Department will participate. There will be a number of activities.

On August 4, the Winds Nature Institute will present a storytime.

Sarah is working on how to use the Department of Libraries summer programs grant during August.

Sarah is planning for Fall Foliage a storywalk. Kellogg-Hubbard Library has a ready-made lending library of books that could be used for this. Richard Montague will assist.

Sarah plans to do some listening sessions and a patron survey to gauge reaction to programming.

Sarah plans to take June 19-23 as vacation. She will also request time off in August and November but doesn't yet know the dates.

She will attend the Vermont Library Association conference on May 20 and a Mental Health First Aid conference on May 21.

The library will be closed July 4.

Sarah has identified a book cart for purchase and is taking steps to secure approval of the purchase through the SelectBoard.

She will be talking to the Vermont Food Bank about meals and to Little Rivers about doing some support groups at the library.

Policy Review Committee update

Sarah has been working with Jennie and Donna. She is seeking input from Joy Worland with the Department of Libraries on the draft put together to date. At the June meeting, there will be review and approval of the work done to date on the collection development strategy and policies, which is handed out. By mid-May the hope is that there will be a draft of personnel policy distributed for the trustees' review for discussion at the June meeting.

Printer / Groton Historical Society

Deborah Jurist reports on a collaboration between the library and the Groton Historical Society in purchasing an all-purpose printer/scanner that would be housed at the library and be available for the Historical Society to use as needed. The Historical Society is willing to contribute a quarter of the cost and to pay for copies it prints. Gary Lamberton has identified a printer that would have all of the capabilities and print 35 pages per minute. We are still working on how to quantify the cost of consumables so that we could figure out what the Historical Society would pay for its usage. We will get more information and discuss this idea further.

Friends' Report

The Friends are working on planning a set of fundraisers for the year to help us reach our annual goal of \$1,000 to support Halloween book gifts, the Winter Lights event, museum passes, and summer programs. Tentative plans include a June recreational event, collaboration with the Historical Society in August, a mini-book sale on Fall Foliage Day, and the 2nd annual Cookie Swap in December. The Friends also look forward to supporting other programs throughout the year as bakers, greeters, and any other way they can help out.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Deborah Jurist and seconded by Dawn Evans.

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

The next regular meeting is June 6, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Evans, Secretary