

# Minutes of Quechee Library Trustees' Meeting

## Feb. 13, 2023

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. 9 meeting were approved

Public Comments: None.

Treasurer's Report: Dave provided an overview of his written report. Expenditures are in line with the budget. The final bill for the HVAC upgrade has been paid, the total cost of the upgrade was \$42,350. Book sales are going well, with a total income of \$2920 so far this fiscal year. The town appropriate cheque should arrive soon. Once that arrives, we will be in good shape for the rest of the fiscal year. The HVAC upgrade was paid from our chequing account, and Dave recommends that we transfer some money to our chequing account from our Wells Fargo investment account. The board agreed that if the town appropriation has not arrived by the end of the month, then \$10,000 will be transferred from the investment account to the chequing account. The report was accepted (moved by Jim, seconded by Bill).

Kate Schaal presented her written report. The report was accepted (moved by Debbie, seconded by Bill), with a discussion of a number of issues:

1. As cost cutting measure, Vermont State University will be getting rid of its physical library and eliminating several library positions. The board noted that libraries still provide an important place – many people prefer printed versus online resources (particularly for books) and librarians serve as a vital resource for teaching students how to access reliable information online.
2. Vermont Reads is focusing on migrant workers and their fear of border patrol enforcement. We have worked with Hartford High School librarian Becky Whitney to present a talk by James Sturm on the graphic novel *The Most Costly Journey, Stories of Migrant Farmworkers in Vermont* at the high school on Feb. 16. On March 6, UVM professor Terese Mares will talk about her book *Life on the Other Border, Farmworkers and Food Justice in Vermont*.
3. The Bugbee book discussion in April will be on *The Line Becomes a River* which deals with southern border issues. Mark noted that the number of people going to book club discussions at Bugbee has tripled in the last 3 months.
4. Kate and Marieke have been working on updating and clarifying lots of library manuals and policies.
5. We are partnering with The Family Place for a program in the first week of April. In conjunction with other local libraries, we are working to promote literacy for young children. The Family Place is hoping to get some of their families to visit the Wilder library at least on an occasional basis.

6. Fibre Connect will be discontinued in the coming months; will have to change our internet provider, likely to EC Fibre.
7. Dave Courtney passed away. He was a regular library patron, which was mentioned in his obituary. He will be missed.
8. Partridge Family did a final thermostat calibration. The owner came to a meeting at the library and gave clear instructions on how to use the thermostats. Right now, we have set things up so that in January we were mainly using the boiler. The basement has no heat pump, so is just being heated by the boiler. Going forward, and in the spirit of being a sustainable library, we may wish to re-consider boiler versus the heat pump use when temperatures are above -10 F.

Old Business: None.

New Business: The Sustainability Libraries Initiative Policy was unanimously approved by the board (motion by Brian, seconded by Tommy).

Jury Duty compensation. There was general agreement that we should pay staff while they are serving on jury duty. Dave will consider various issues (part-time vs. full time staff, etc) and will circulate a written policy for consideration prior to the next monthly meeting.

Next Regular Meeting: March 13 at 5pm.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55pm