

Groton Free Public Library

1304 Scott Hwy

Groton, VT 05046

October 14, 2021

The duly warned meeting of the Library Trustees was held at the at the Groton Free Public Library and via Zoom on October 14, 2021.

Attendance for the meeting:

Trustees Alissa Smith, Wade Johnson, Jr., and Jennie Gaiss; Librarian Jodi Fleurie-Wohlleb and Friends of GFPL representative, Donna Russo-Savage (via Zoom).

Meeting was called to order at 6:35p.m.

Agenda was approved along with the minutes from the September 23, 2021 meeting.

Treasurer's Report

As of Oct. 7, we have spent 76% of the budget. Jodi expects the ARPA grant money to come in by 10/21. When that funding arrives, the 400 account will be reimbursed with these funds to cover the air purifiers that were purchased under the ARPA grant guidelines.

Friends Report: Fall Foliage Book Sale Success!

Donna reported on the Foliage Book Sale:

- Netted nearly \$1300 (\$200 more than 2019 when the most recent book sale was held)
- Over 100 volunteer hours (pre-sale prep, set-up, conducting the sale and post-sale cleanup)
- Remaining books have been boxed, labeled and stored in Alissa's barn

Thank you to our vibrant, dedicated Friends group and all who assisted and contributed time and effort to this cause! We truly appreciate all you do for GFPL!

The next Friends meeting will be some time in November. Date TBD.

Annual Appeal

A discussion was had regarding our upcoming Annual Appeal. Alissa will share copies of past letters and Jennie will provide an updated draft for consideration and approval by the Trustees. Jodi noted that some patrons have already made contributions toward this effort. She will add new patrons to the mailing list. Once approved, letters will be printed and mailed with a target date of Nov. 18.

Budget Committee

Wade, Deb and Jodi put together a proposal for the 2022 Budget and provided copies for review via email ahead of the Oct. meeting. Items discussed and updated:

- allocations for the required maintenance and annual elevator inspection will be set at \$525 (\$375 for the maintenance contract and \$150 for required inspection)
- Workman's Comp is now coming out of the library budget. Wade will discuss with Town Treasurer regarding this new accounting.
- The line item for Computers will be set at \$0. Computers will be folded into Furnishing and Equipment which will be set at \$500 for 2022.
- The 2022 Budget Proposal is due at the Town Office by Nov. 4.
- Wade will present the proposal at the Selectboard Budget Mtg. on Nov. 13 at 12:30pm

Additional discussion was had regarding the ARPA grant money. As previously approved, Jodi will be ordering STEM kits once the funding arrives. She noted, however, that these kits may be in high demand and once the grant money arrives, the kits may not be available. If this is the case, the ARPA \$ would need still be spent by the end of the year deadline or we lose the funding. If this occurs, other ideas for the grant money are acquiring a microphone and camera for Zoom meetings or setting up a work station in the upstairs space.

Librarian Report

Jodi reported that she received three boxes of juvenile fiction books from the VT Dept. of Libraries. She'll be promoting these new books in our collection through the library website and social media channels.

The first Friday Crafts on the Porch will be held on Oct. 15 during open hours 2:30-7pm. Jodie will host these activities each Friday during the month of October with a fall themed craft activity. All are invited to participate.

The Winter Clothing Drive has begun with a deadline of Nov. 12 set for donations. Donated clothing (coats, hats, gloves, scarves, etc) will be made available to all in need and will be distributed from the Front Porch.

The Community Garden Harvest on the Porch offered fresh produce to all in the community throughout the summer and early fall and was well received. We discussed ways to continue to offer this service to the community. As the weather allows, we'll use the porch for food distribution and may use part of the backroom for this purpose when the weather turns colder.

In preparation for implementing the Maker Space, Jodi noted that she'll be attending a course specifically designed for librarians in the coming weeks.

Additionally, the library will support Jazzy's Kids Halloween kit giveaway. Jodi has prepared 100 crayon boxes with library bookmarks for the kits.

Regarding fund raising, Jodi remarked that we have offered tote bags in the past and suggested we try something new. She presented a sample coffee mug with the Groton library logo on a background of books. We all agreed it was a great idea. She'll be moving forward with the designer and present samples next week for approval.

As requested, Jodi provided an update for online Green Mt Consortium activity from our Groton patrons. From Jan 1, 2021-Oct. 13, 2021, patrons checked out 672 items online through Overdrive. The service costs \$375 per year, which is much less than services like Kanopy and Hoopla that some libraries offer.

Finally, we discussed ways to provide fun, engaging activities to the community throughout the winter months ahead. Ideas included hosting a Snowman Making Party at the gazebo with hot cocoa or soup, and a Community Sledding Day at a local hillside. All were encouraged to bring ideas to the Nov. meeting for further planning and discussion.

No other business was discussed.

The next meeting will be held Thursday, November 11, 2021 at 6:30p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennie Gaiss, Secretary