

Groton Free Public Library

1304 Scott Hwy

Groton, VT 05046

January 13, 2022

The duly warned meeting of the Library Trustees was held at the at the Groton Free Public Library and via Zoom on January 13, 2022.

Attendance for the meeting:

Trustees Alissa Smith and Peggy Burgin (at the library); trustees Wade Johnson, Jr., Deb Jurist and Jennie Gaiss, Librarian Jodi Fleurie-Wohlleb and Friends representative Donna Russo-Savage (via Zoom).

Chair Alissa Smith called the meeting to order at 6:43pm. Technical difficulties caused a brief delay in the meeting start.

The agenda for the meeting and minutes of December meeting were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report

Wade reported that at the most recent Select Board meeting, the Board has adjusted the proposed wage increase for town employees to 3%. Alissa noted that the Library Board sets wages for the librarian. The Board decided back in November to increase Jodi's wage by 5.9% (equal to the federal cost of living increase). Alissa will discuss with Lisa at the Town Office to clarify. The proposed 2022 Library budget has been submitted and approved by the Select Board and will be presented to the town and through Town Meeting for a vote. This year voting will be via Australian ballot (due to covid).

Annual Appeal

Letters were mailed in mid-November. Jodi reported that the library received an additional \$2563.79 in donations from the Annual Appeal for a total of \$4433.79. To express our sincere gratitude for these contributions, individual thank you notes have been sent.

Discussion of Meeting Schedule

We continued our discussion of adjusting our meeting schedule. It was suggested that the Board meet eight times per year rather than monthly. On the off months, the Chair and Treasurer could meet with the Librarian with the option to call a meeting should the need arise. If the schedule is altered, it would be necessary to update the website in order to warn Groton residents of this altered schedule. No decisions were made and the subject was tabled for further discussion.

Trustee Positions

Chair Alissa Smith announced that she would not be seeking re-election and would be leaving the board after her term expires in March 2022. In addition, Wade Johnson, Jr. told the Board that due to health reasons, he will be leaving the Board after the February 2022 meeting. His term was set to expire in

March 2024. In their capacity as Trustees, Alissa and Wade each contributed countless hours to supporting the Library and we are deeply grateful for their dedication and service to Groton.

These developments leave two of the five Library Trustee positions open. A discussion followed regarding notifying the community of these open positions and reaching out to Groton residents who might be interested in joining the Board.

Residents interested in joining the Board and wishing to be on the ballot for Town Meeting, must submit a Consent Form at the Town Office by January 24th. Deb will notify Lisa and Carrie at the Town Office so that the town website can be updated to reflect these two open positions.

Librarian Report

Jodi announced to the Board that she will be leaving her position as Librarian with a target date of February 11, 2022. Her family business has grown significantly since starting just a year ago and she feels the need to focus her full attention on this endeavor. In addition, she is homeschooling her two children and manages their many extracurricular activities. Given all this, she feels it is in her best interest to leave her Librarian position. She plans to continue serving the Library and the community through volunteering and emphasized that she hopes to assist the Board with the transition to a new Librarian.

Trustees offered words of appreciation to Jodi for the tremendous job she has done for Groton during her time as Librarian. Jodi brought seemingly unlimited enthusiasm, creativity, compassion, and dedication to her role and we will miss her greatly!

Jodi further reported that she submitted the 2020 Report to the state. She noted that the 2021 report will be due Jan 2023 and she will provide a spreadsheet with all necessary information for the new Librarian to be able to complete that report when it is due.

Jodi added that the back room has been rearranged and organized with the help of Friends Martha Montague and Kirsten Murch. Jodi also plans to submit orders for items that have been funded through an ARPA grant.

Upcoming activities: Snow Coloring Kits and Winter Reading Challenge Bingo (with prizes/rewards offered for adults and kids alike).

In addition, the Friends will once again host a Valentine's Day Cupcake giveaway on February 14. The event was well received by residents last year and we thank the Friends for hosting this fun event for our community.

Special Meeting

The Board decided to meet on Tuesday, January 18 at 6pm to discuss and set-up a process for hiring a new Librarian.

With no further items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06p.m.

Our next regular monthly meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2022 at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennie Gaiss, Secretary