

Groton Free Public Library

1304 Scott Highway

Groton, VT 05046

March 10, 2022

The duly warned meeting of the Library Trustees was held at the Groton Free Public Library and via Zoom on March 10, 2022.

Attendance for the meeting:

Trustees Wayne Knott, Peggy Burgin, and Deb Jurist (at the library); Trustees Jenni Gaiss and Dawn Evans (via Zoom). Also attending: former Librarian Jodi Fleurie-Wohlieb; Terri Eastman, and Sarah Spira, volunteers; and Donna Russo-Savage representing the Friends of the Library

The meeting was called to order by Deb Jurist at 6:30 p.m.

Newly-elected Trustees Wayne Knott and Dawn Evans were welcomed.

The agenda for the meeting and the minutes from the last meeting were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Deb Jurist reported that we may have to make some changes to the budget or at least be prepared to make some cuts in the proposed budget in order to be in alignment with others. The SelectBoard will next meet on March 17.

Deb received end-of-the-year bank statements from the Town Clerk. She plans to ask for quarterly reports, going forward.

Jodi suggested that we may take a look at adjusting the book buying budget. Wayne asked about money from former lithograph sales. There was a discussion about the various accounts the library maintains.

Election of Officers:

A motion was made by Wayne Knott that Deb Jurist remain in the position of Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Jennie Gaiss. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Deb Jurist to nominate Jennie Gaiss as Chair. The motion was seconded by Wayne Knott. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Jennie Gaiss to nominate Dawn Evans as Secretary. The motion was seconded by Wayne Knott. The motion passed unanimously.

The trustees noted that future topics for discussion might include examining the number of meetings to be held yearly and discussing whether to add the position of Vice-Chair.

Update from Hiring Committee:

The position of Librarian was advertising several places, both in print and digitally. There was much interest expressed, and several applicants are moving forward for interviews which are scheduled to take place on Saturday, March 12. Once the interviews take place, the Hiring Committee will make a recommendation to the Trustees, who will then vote on making a hiring decision. Most likely, rather than awaiting the next regular meeting, a special meeting will be called for that purpose, for which only two days' notice is required.

Mask Policy:

There was a discussion about whether to maintain the mask requirement within the library. Volunteers voiced support of its continuation. No action was taken to alter the mask requirement. The matter will be examined again at the next meeting.

Friends Report:

A paint and sip activity may be planned for the summer.

The trustees discussed what activities might be supported by the Friends as a response to the situation in Ukraine – including making available materials for the making of sunflower pictures to place in the library windows; distributing sunflower seeds possibly distributed by the Community Garden; and identifying educational material about Ukraine (such as maps) that could be displayed in the library. There was some discussion of whether fundraising on behalf of Ukraine was an activity that could be undertaken. It was thought that the library could provide information about such opportunities.

Volunteers Report:

Terri Eastman and Sarah Spira reported on their experiences working at the library since the departure of Jodi Fleurie-Wohlieb as Librarian. There have been a couple of instances in which Rural Edge was contacted and responded promptly for issues relating to maintenance. A follow-up meeting of the Volunteers (via Zoom) had been tentatively scheduled for Sunday, March 13. Jodi suggests that that meeting should be postponed until more is known about the timetable for a new librarian's start date, so that it can be determined how much longer there will be a need for volunteer staffing of the library.

Librarian Report

Jodi Fleurie-Wohlieb has continued to provide support and continues to be paid for this work at her previous rate, and has offered to help train the new librarian when that person is hired.

She notes that the plant in the front window can be watered often and that, if the barcode scanner is malfunctioning, identifying numbers can be typed in. She has continued to work on book displays.

She discussed preparations for a number of summer programming items, including the distribution of bean seeds (from Slow Food USA) and art kits (from Fair Housing Association).

The winter clothing has been packed away and prom dresses will be put on display next week. The library will take donations of formal dresses for inclusion in the giveaway.

Jodi has submitted the application for the summer reading program grant of \$300. This year's theme is "Oceans of Possibility."

The library was granted an air quality monitor. Jodi will attend a training about it on March 16th.

St. Patrick's Day kits will be ready to distribute shortly.

It is hoped that the library porch will again be available for produce distribution in the summer.

With no further items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

The next regular meeting is April 14, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Evans, Secretary