

Bradford Public Library

Bradford, VT 05033

Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting Minutes

DATE: February 9, 2023

Those who were present:

- Gail Trede
- Jill Baron
- Tony Brainerd
- Larry Coffin
- Angela Conrad-Schlager
- Sean Fleming
- Arvid Johnson
- Brad Johnston
- Laura Lornitzo
- Dotti Unkles

Year:

Library Director
2025
2024
2024
2024
2026
2026
2025
2025
2026

Those not Present:

- Eris Eastman Trustee Emerita
- Bud Haas Trustee Emeritus

- Elaina Vitale Town Representative (maternity leave)

Meeting called to order at 6:32 pm by President, Angela Conrad-Schlager.

Arvid motioned, Brad seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of January 12, 2023. All voted in favor.

Treasurer's Report:

A monthly Treasurer's report was submitted to the Board via email

Brad motioned, Tony seconded, a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. All voted in favor.

Anon Alarm Co. payment out of maintenance fund, not operating budget.

We received a \$5,000.00 grant for Spanish Language group.

Unexpected gifts have helped out considerably.

Due to the cost of fuel and increase in staffing, we may be over budget.

Library Director's Report:

The Library Director emailed an extensive Librarian's Report report to the Board of Trustees.

Sean motioned, Larry seconded, a motion to approve the Library Director's report. All voted in favor.

The new website is up and running and is easier to maneuver.

Suggestions from board:

- Make menu items larger

- A search box widget could be helpful

- Provide a menu bar

- A new logo might be helpful, Larry will touch base with graphic designer, Lee Morrill.

A bill was received from website designer, Terry Miller for \$227.20. Gail applied for but did not receive a grant to cover Terry's bill.

To date, we have received almost \$10,000 in grants.

Poem Town:

- Local schools want to participate in poem town.

- The Journal Opinion will post for us.

Gail will present on library inclusivity on April 3.

The staff has been dealing with challenging patrons, i.e., one patron became quite loud and appeared agitated, as demonstrated by babbling, and incoherent speech. Another patron loudly commented, "What do have, a schiz in here?" During a phone request to have the Constitution read over the phone, another patron appeared to become sexually aroused. He has continued to call, specifically asking for that same person.

The Afterschool and Toddler Story Hour continue to be popular. To the delight of toddlers and parents, Waldei continues to be a calming presence during story hour.

We have 14 new patrons.

Harriet Pratt Peterson gave \$10,000.00 to the library. This should be considered a gift.

BPL will be sponsoring and developing a summer humanities/theater camp. The camp will run for one week. Campers should be sixth grade or older. Melissa Mann will run camp.

Gail will continue to provide children/youth with summer projects, as well as, a summer reading list.

Old Business/Discussion Topics:

Brian Schlager attended the last select board meeting, but reported that any decision regarding ARPA money had been postponed.

2022/2023 appeal, close to \$25000 received (additional \$ from anonymous donor)

Board members are encouraged to write in the committees they are willing to serve on.

Budget Committee:

All good

Buildings & Grounds:

Still waiting on ARPA decision; screws have been put in cabinets; furnace work will be done during warmer months; roofs have been put on all but one of the little libraries; still waiting to hear back from person who said they would paint the library windows.

Fundraising & Annual Appeal:

Yard Sale-Date? Tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 27, with a rain date of Sunday May 28, during Memorial Day weekend. Next steps? Larry reported that we did well last year because many elders donated furniture and other belongings as they were down-sizing. Gail will put a request for donations on list serve. We will begin to look for items in early spring. Is Bloomerang working? Yes! We have a new software platform. Gail will bring any new suggestions to the web person.

New Business/Discussion Topics:

Denise Shannon was introduced to the BPL board as a potential candidate for a board opening as one of the Town Representatives. Her background: Denise is a NICU nurse, has lived in Bradford for 14 years, and has volunteered at BES library. Larry explained what a Town Rep was and what being on the board entailed.

Larry motioned and Arvid seconded to bring Denise's name forward to the select board as our new Town Representative. All voted in favor.

Sean will move from Town Representative to BPL Board Member.

Cards will be sent to Elaina, who is currently on maternity leave, and to Pam for her years of service to BPL.

Larry will send condolences to the family of Pete Ledworth.

Brad motioned, Arvid seconded, a motion to adjourn. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm.

Next scheduled Monthly Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Dotti Unkles
Bradford Public Library Board Interim Secretary