

DOROTHY ALLING MEMORIAL LIBRARY

TRUSTEE MINUTES JANUARY 27, 2025

UNAPPROVED

Present: Charity Clark, Shari Westman, Karla Karstens, Steve Perkins, Diane Downer, Barbara Mieder; Librarians: Bonnie Lord-Meunier, Lori Ledak

Absent: Brian Goodwin

Secretary's report: The secretary's report was approved without corrections.

Treasurer's report: No major transactions.

Friends of the Library report: The Friends paid their share of the expenses for Jane's Retirement Party. They donated money to buy 14 Whazoodle kits. Bonnie will bring a Whazoodle to the next Friends meeting so everyone can see what they are.

DAML Schematic Design Committee Updates: The Committee hasn't met since our last meeting. The next meeting will be January 30 to discuss costs for the expansion/renovation. On February 10 at 7:00 p.m. there will be a special meeting of the Trustees to discuss final options and costs.

Current Budget Report: The December Budget Report has not been finalized yet, but we do have the November report. The goal for November is 41% spent. Spending is a little over in Computer apps which has to do with when annual subscriptions are due, some of which are July (Vokal) and September (Computer Software). Otherwise, most of them are pretty close to being on track. Book spending is a little lower for November, but I expect that will catch up in December and January as we renewed periodical subscriptions, are working on updating some nonfiction print collections, and digital materials costs have been trending up with use (although we've addressed that with Hoopla). I also know for youth books that there's a lull and spending will increase in April.

Librarian's Report:

Director Transition Update – Jane left with ample instructions and notes; so far the transition has been going smoothly. Town Reports for both St. George and Williston have been submitted, and the annual VT Dept of Libraries report is drafted and ready to submit. There have been many offers of help from Trustees, Friends, and Staff which is greatly appreciated as I navigate the transitional period. Right now, the timeline is on track and applications are currently being accepted for another week. Interviews will be in mid-February.

Before Jane left, we started looking at how we could decrease the cost of Hoopla which was on trajectory for a 32% increase in cost from FY24. Kim worked with our Hoopla reps to come up with an agreeable solution for now which was to decrease the cost of the CPC items available. We also asked that Hoopla marketing emails be turned off for our patrons.

December Library Statistics – Some small dips in the number of programs offered, and the number of attendees, but that could be attributed to library staff offering fewer unique programs during the transition period. The dip in phone and in-person questions can be accounted for by the increase in instances of email questions the staff responds to. The Gingerbread House Program was a success again, with about 100 participants!

2025 Vermont Library Conference – The Vermont Library Conference is scheduled for Monday, May 19th, in Killington. In previous years, the library has closed the day of the conference to allow all staff to attend; we are hoping for permission to do the same this year.

There was a motion to close the library on Monday, May 19 so all staff can attend the VLA Conference. Approved.

Staff Report: Lori Ledak, Program Librarian

Lori has been going out with Sarah for Outreach support at the Senior Living Centers and Whitney Hill. She often has a craft or helps with story-telling. Some residents from the Allen Brook Memory Care Center came to the library in December for a craft and music, which was enjoyable for everyone.

The Brown Bag Book Club has changed its name to the Readers Roundtable, but everything else is the same – read a great book and get together to talk about it! Twice a month there is a Current Events hybrid meeting that has steady participation. There is a new contact person helping with Current Events. There is also consistent attendance at the Spanish and French programs. The Tech Tutor is now a retired gentleman who comes once a month and has been very helpful answering questions and helping users organize their computer, so it is easier for them to find what they need. There was a very successful program on Winter Birds and the Intergen Reading groups are going strong. Cook the Book has great participation, with a cheese tasting session in January (trying something different) that was very fun. In February Cook the Book will meet in the evening to taste a variety of Italian dishes and play a pasta inspired game.

Passive programs are the Spice Club (Star Anise), Winter Book Bingo, Jigsaw Puzzle exchange, and Blind Date with a Book. In March there will be three related financial talks on Retirement, Preventing Financial Scams, and Saving for College.

There will also be a number of programs inspired by the VT Reads book Gather. Stay tuned as dates for those programs are finalized.

Thank you, Lori!

New Business: The Director Search is moving along. Bonnie is doing a fantastic job and appreciates all the support.

Old Business: No Old Business

Meeting Adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Next Meeting: Special Date – Monday, February 10, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.