

**Bennington Free Library
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes June 11, 2024**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Munson, Jon Goodrich, David Newell, Kelley Legacy, Norma McShane, Jackie Marro, Brian Cunningham, Susan McKenna, Bruce Smith, Deirdre Ryan, Beth Tegart, PJ Venti and Wendy Sharkey (Executive Director)

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Minutes from the May 21, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

- There were no public comments or presentations at the June meeting.
- Bruce will invite student members from the Alliance for Community Transformations (ACT) to the November (or future) meeting so that the Board can explore how the library may be able to support Bennington-area youth with more focused and deliberate activities and programs.

FINANCE REPORT:

A. Annual Fund

- As of 6/6/2024, the Library has received \$70,539 from 308 gifts, exceeding our 2023-2024 goal of \$50,000.
- PJ reminded the Board that we strive for 100% participation from our Members each fiscal year.

B. Revenue and Expense Reports

- The R&E Report for May was circulated for discussion and review.
- With no further discussion, the Revenue and Expenses Report for May was approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Buildings and Grounds

- There was continued discussion on the exterior signage/lettering for the Main Street facade of the building. Mike asked Jon to request a formal proposal/quote from GVH Studio for aluminum lettering; Susan asked Jon to also request a second quote from GVH for painted lettering. Proposals should include a design rendering.

Beth will contact the Historic Preservation Commission to determine what is required and when in order to receive permit approval to include in our application to the DRB.

B. Fundraising

- Mini Golf Tournament is scheduled for Friday, February 28 & Saturday, March 1, 2025. The next fundraising committee meeting will be held via zoom on Friday, June 21 at 10 am.

C. Personnel and Policies

- With the passing of S220, the age for parents to sign on behalf of their child/guardian was lowered from 16 to 12. Wendy updated the Borrowing Policy for Residents and Non-Residents which was formally adopted by the Board.

D. Nominating Committee

- With her term ending on June 30th, the Board recognized Jackie Marro for her service and dedication to the Library.
- Bruce suggested Sarah Blizzard, Associate Director of Greater Bennington Community Services (GBCS) as a candidate and will ask Sarah for a letter of interest to share with the Board to continue our formal nominating process.
- Mike contacted the Select Board to request a new liaison and we will know more at our September meeting.

E. Long Range Planning

- Mike will invite Matt Harrington/Harrington Brands to our September meeting to give a formal presentation of their services to take the Board through the strategic planning process.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT HIGHLIGHTS (full report circulated in meeting materials):

- The annual elevator inspection was completed and a certificate was issued documenting that our elevator is fully operational and meets code.
- A popular women's self-defense program was held on June 19 for library staff; the program was also offered to the public on June 22.
- Linda, Karson, and Johnna gave a presentation to the Select Board on June 10 about the Summer Reading Program which was well-received.
- The pop-up book sale over Mayfest was a success and Wendy thanked all members who were able to volunteer their time.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Board members asked Wendy to send a card to Cora May Howe with our condolences on the passing of her husband and long-time community supporter, Bob Howe.

With no further agenda items, the meeting was adjourned.

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE (FY 2024-2025): (Third Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m.)

- September 17, 2024
- November 19, 2024
- January 21, 2025
- March 18, 2025
- May 20, 2025
- June 17, 2025

Respectfully submitted,
PJ Venti