

**VERMONT BOARD OF LIBRARIES**

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING**

**January 12, 2016**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Midstate Library Service Center**

**Berlin, Vermont**

**Members present:** Bruce Post, Chair; Lucy Comstock-Gay, Maxie Ewins, Josh Fitzhugh,

Jim Gish, Deborah Granquist, Martha Reid

**Others present:** Margaret Woodruff, Vermont Library Association

Tess Adone, Executive Assistant to the State Librarian

**Via teleconference:** Bill Himmell, Partner, Himmel & Wilson Library Consultants

**Call to Order:** Chair Bruce Post called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of October 12, 2015 were approved unanimously.

**Election of Officers**

Deborah Granquist nominated Bruce Post as Chair; seconded by Jim Gish; unanimous approval. Post said he will accept his third and last term as Chair.

Josh Fitzhugh nominated Deborah Granquist as Vice-chair; seconded by Lucy Comstock-Gay; unanimous approval.

**Department of Libraries: Strategic Direction**

Bill Wilson of [Himmel & Wilson Library Consultants](http://www.libraryconsultant.com/) is nearing completion of the report on the strategic direction of the Department of Libraries (VTLIB). Wilson anticipates the Department of Libraries to change significantly because the support for performing certain functions has disappeared. The shift can be characterized as moving away from collecting and maintaining physical resources toward providing virtual resources and services to state government and hands-on outreach services to individual libraries.

Future focus will be on delivering transformative results throughout statewide services, and results-based accountability will guide all activities, decisions, and organizational operation.

The reconfigured framework will create two branches, each with a respective Deputy Director reporting directly to the State Librarian:

1. Technology Information Access and Operations

2) Library Advancement

The model is configured with the existing number of staff members, although positions will undergo change. Previously, more staff members’ work went toward maintaining the physical State Library, but the new virtual delivery streamlines that, meaning the balance of staff can be directed outward toward libraries. The Department may become more effective than it has been in the past and have greater impact.

Technology Information Access and Operations

* There will be a shift of state government services away from the disappearing physical model toward the state-of-the-art virtual library. More investment will be required in databases and in providing state government with how to access the best information.
* Resource sharing technology and ILL are key technological means.
* Operational support will be distributed throughout the Department.
* The Deputy Director of Technology position includes LSTA coordination, data collection, and oversight of ILL and major resource sharing technologies requisite to managing a virtual State Library.

Library Advancement

* The term “development” came out of an era pushing for more physical libraries, whereas “advancement” is about improving libraries and outward actions.
* Advancement encompasses continuing education and staff professional development.
* It includes services to populations with special needs: blind, handicapped, and any special populations, such as children and youth.
* Advancement addresses the need for new standards for libraries. New standards reflect new realities, must be robust and measure progress, and have incentives to meet them. Meeting benchmark standards may or may not be triggers for new forms of state aid or LSTA funds.
* Advancing libraries of all sizes includes professional and technical support, both the traditional support role of answering questions and the new role of showing libraries how to accomplish goals.
* The Deputy Director of Advancement position includes active involvement in the professional and technical support role to libraries, primarily supporting larger libraries, with another staff member in the unit focusing on small libraries and their unique needs. The position also includes managing continuing education and staff professional development.

The proposed model is a hybrid developed from national observations and takes into account the positives and negatives of how other state agencies have responded to challenges, as well as balances physical (i.e., office space) and virtual resources. The physical model no longer can be imposed on a virtual model.

Effecting transition over the next three years will include finding appropriate homes with the best public access for important and relevant physical resources. An important virtual aspect to be developed is the creation of a unified database of licensed content, eliminating licensing redundancy and costs in state government, and centralizing access. The virtual model coordinates access through an effective portal and offers expert assistance on conducting searches and evaluating resources.

A potential risk of the transition is misunderstanding by parties who have had a traditional idea of a library of physical place with physical resources but not the outward advancement portion. The new strategic plan needs to have a strong marketing plan with good communication to all parties. The move to virtual probably will be well received and understood.

Discussion included noting that statewide technological needs are being addressed currently and include replacing the Vermont Automated Library System (VALS), the state statewide sharing system, which is from the 1980s.Time and effort will be saved at the local level for handling Interlibrary Loans (ILLs) and should increase the availability of materials.

A pilot ILL delivery is commencing via a courier service at 80 libraries through Green Mountain Library Consortium. RFPs will be issued following evaluation at the end of the pilot.

In addition, a RRP is out for a union catalog with the goal of a vendor being selected by July.

**Board of Libraries: Future Roles and Functions**

Due to time constraints, discussion of this agenda item was tabled. The Board concurred that either an additional meeting or the annual retreat be held earlier than usual in order to discuss the item and follow up on the Himmel & Wilson report.

**Other Business**

Josh Fitzhugh will submit his Board reappointment renewal.

Anne Lezak has resigned from the Board.

Lucy Comstock-Gay will be resigning following the next meeting.

Both openings are open to recruitment discussion. Chair Bruce Post recommended having a sitting librarian on the Board.

**2016 Meeting Schedule**

The Board of Libraries meets quarterly (January, April, July, and October) on the second Tuesday of the month, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Board Committee meetings are scheduled as needed.

All meetings are posted on the [State of Vermont public meetings](http://libraries.vermont.gov/events/list?field_event_type_tid=594) list.

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| **Date** | **Time** | **Location** | **Purpose** |
| January 12, 2016 | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Midstate Library Service Center | Regular meeting of Board  Annual Election of Officers |
| April 12, 2016 | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Rockingham Free Library  Rockingham/Bellows Falls | Regular meeting of Board  Scheduled: Geographic Naming Public Hearing |
| July 12, 2016 | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Waterbury Public Library  Waterbury | Regular meeting of Board |
| October 11, 2016 | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Bixby Memorial Free Library  Vergennes | Regular meeting of Board |
| *Board retreat*  *Full Day*  *Date TBD* | *TBD* | *TBD* | *Board retreat* |

**Adjournment** The meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.