

VERMONT BOARD OF LIBRARIES
Special Hearing
DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING

DRAFT
August 25, 2021
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Meeting conducted
Virtually via Microsoft
Teams & In-Person at
Department of Libraries,
60 Washington Street,
Barre

In Attendance: Bruce Post (Chair), Deborah Granquist (Vice Chair), Tom Frank, Maxie Ewins, Adriene Katz, James Saunders, Jason Broughton (Secretary)

Others Present: Cherie Yaeger (VTLIB), Janette Shaffer (VTLIB), Thomas McMurdo (VTLIB), April Shaw (VTLIB), Joshua Muse (VTLIB)

Call to Order: Chair Bruce Post called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

Bruce Post discussed the departure of Jason Broughton, as well as the transition. Jason shared thoughts on his entire tenure as State Librarian. He also described his upcoming departure and move to his new position.

Report by the State Librarian:

Jason spoke on the state's COVID situation, the state's current plan, and the overall impact on the department. He discussed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding that the department received, including current and future aspects. The first aspect is the ARPA Grants to Public Libraries for Equipment and Supply Purchases, which received applications from 163 libraries, and funding amounts from \$2,000 to \$66,000. Janette Shaffer elaborated on the process, and the wide range of requested items (such as robotics kits, accessible desks, and outdoor furniture). Thomas McMurdo talked about how the funding amounts were determined. Jason talked about future aspects of ARPA, including small grants to local libraries and historical societies, possible academic support, resources for public library trustees, services for school libraries, supplies and support for the Courier program, collections support and equipment for the ABLE Library, and support for library consortia. Other possibilities include partnerships with VT organizations, as well as diversity, equity, and inclusion projects.

Jason discussed current projects that relate to State Government, including funding for FiberConnect, as well as the Library Working Group. He also mentioned upcoming considerations, including budget creation, social equity efforts, legislative priorities, and Agency of Administration priorities. Possible future efforts include further codifying the geographic naming procedures.

Jason related some current projects within the department, including the LSTA review and new 5-year plan, federal budget year change-over, as well as final grant reporting for CARES and interim reporting for ARPA. Additionally, the Build America's Libraries Act may or may not pass, which would involve funding for construction costs. He also spoke about current vacancies within the Department. Maxie Ewins asked a question about the Freeman Fund, and Jason elaborated on the current situation of the Vermont Public Library Fund.

Aдриene Katz asked about the Agency of Administration priorities. Jason explains that they include economic growth, protection of the most vulnerable, COVID, and safety and health, each of which can include a wide range of efforts. There's an additional priority at modernizing processes, which can be seen in our updated efforts to distribute state documents. Tom McMurdo pointed to our online resources for workforce and job seekers, as well as library efforts that save money for the end user, promoting literacy and health and wellness resources that assist with positive health outcomes, and the program to share firewood moisture meters with libraries. Additionally, we plan to improve our website for ADA accessibility, provide better tools for customer service to our various constituents, and modernize the grants to libraries (the last of which is mostly complete).

Tom Frank moved the board go into executive session to discuss the Board's statutory role to provide consultation to the Secretary of the Agency of Administration in selecting a new state librarian, and further moved to invite Tom McMurdo, Jason Broughton, and Janette Shaffer. Deb Granquist seconded this, and the motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session

Deb Granquist made a motion to come out of executive session. Maxie Ewins seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

Bruce pointed out that the board is a strong resource that can be useful to the interim state librarian and the department as a whole.

Deb Granquist made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Maxie Ewins seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 12:03 pm.