



**VERMONT BOARD OF LIBRARIES
MINUTES OF MEETING**

March 21, 2014

10:00 a.m. – noon

Kreitzberg Library

Norwich University, Northfield, VT

Members present: Bruce Post, Chair; Josh Fitzhugh; Jim Gish; Anne Lezak; Martha Reid, State Librarian; Deborah Granquist (via phone) and Ariel Wengroff (via phone). **Also present:** Brittney Wilson, Department of Libraries; Scott Murphy, Director, Milton Public Library & Vice-President, Vermont Library Association (VLA); and Greg Sauer, Interim Director, Kreitzberg Library.

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

Additions to Agenda: None.

Minutes: December 17, 2013 and July 16, 2013 meeting minutes were approved.

Welcome to Kreitzberg Library: Greg Sauer, Interim Library Director, welcomed board members and gave a presentation on the history of Norwich University and the different phases of library buildings and services leading up to present-day Kreitzberg Library. Sauer discussed some of the trends within the library: decrease in print acquisitions and circulation and increase in purchase and use of ebooks. The Board noted that these same trends are happening at St. Michael's College and Champlain College, locations where the Board has met in the past year.

State Librarian's Report: Reid asked the Board for input on the "State of Vermont Libraries" report. Fitzhugh wants the report to include information on library funding. Lezak noted that it is critical to be clear on the purpose and intent of the report before beginning data collection. Gish pointed out the danger of being overly broad and the need for clear focus. Granquist also asked questions about the intended focus and outcome of the report: What do we want to learn? What is the greatest need for our libraries? Funding? Greater visibility? Lezak suggested that the Board's Vision Committee can help with aspects of the report and that the Vermont Library Association should be involved as well. Reid believes that the report should address such questions as: What is the current state of our (public) libraries, and how do they compare with other states? What is the future outlook for libraries? How will they meet the changing needs of citizens? All present agreed that libraries need additional funding, and the

discussion turned to some potential grant opportunities in the next year. Gish said that funding for libraries may be more successful if services are aligned with the Governor's priorities and the big issues affecting Vermonters. Murphy reported that in his library citizens are requesting information about health care and taxes, needing access to related e-government sites.

Election of Officers: Fitzhugh made a motion that Bruce Post remain as Chair and Deborah Granquist remain as Vice Chair for the next year. The Board approved the motion unanimously.

Bylaws: Post reviewed proposed changes to the Board Bylaws. Copies of the proposed Bylaw revisions will be distributed to all members and will be presented for a vote at the May Board meeting.

Committee Meetings:

1. Geographic Naming Committee members: Reid, Post and Comstock-Gay
2. *Minimum Standards for Public Libraries* Committee members: Reid, Fitzhugh, Granquist, Scott Murphy, VLA Vice-President, and (former Board member) Linda Williamson.
3. Vision for Vermont Libraries Committee members: Reid, Comstock-Gay, Lezak, Gish, Wengroff and Amber Billey, VLA President.

Brittney Wilson will schedule committee meetings between now and the May Board meeting and will notify the full Board. The Board agreed that committee meetings could be held virtually and are open to all Board members and will be warned to the public via the State Meetings listing on the Department of Libraries' website. Committees will assign committee chairs, and Committee meeting minutes and agendas will be distributed to the full Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m

Next meeting: May 13, 2014, 10:00 a.m. at the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Reid,
State Librarian, and
Secretary, Board of Libraries