

VERMONT BOARD OF LIBRARIES
MINUTES OF MEETING

DRAFT

April 22, 2017
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Midstate Library Service Center
Berlin, Vermont

Members present: Bruce Post, Chair; Josh Fitzhugh, Jim Gish, Deborah Granquist, Scott Murphy (Acting State Librarian)

Others present: Maxie Ewins (via telephone), Joy Worland (Vice Chair, Vermont Library Association VLA); Cherie Yaeger (Executive Assistant to the State Librarian); Mara Siegel (Library Consultant for Professional Development), Hannah Peacock (DCF Reading Committee), Becky Rupp (DCF Reading Committee), Julie Picket (President of the Friends of Dorothy Canfield Fisher), Cheryl Sloane (Friends of Dorothy Canfield Fisher), Judy Dow (Educator), Kim Chase (Educator)

Call to Order: Chair Bruce Post called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and asked for introductions from all those in attendance.

Approval of board minutes from January 10, 2017 held until end of meeting.

Discussion of Dorothy Canfield Fisher Award:

Bruce Post invited Judy Dow to start the conversation concerning the Dorothy Canfield Fisher Book Award. Judy told the board members about her background, and presented a Power Point presentation on what eugenics is, and what the Vermont Eugenics Survey (VES) was. The presentation contained information from the Vermont Eugenics survey of 1926. Dow explained the problems with this way of thinking, and named some of the studies funded by the VES.

Dow stated that Dorothy Canfield Fisher based characters in her books on real people. Dow had posted on the wall of the conference room sections from some of Fisher's books, and read some of these sections to the board and others in attendance. Dow stated that they, (Dow and Kim Chase) have found where the eugenics committee asked DCF to keep writing "the propaganda". Dow also spoke on the book, "Writers of Conviction, The Personal Politics of Zona Gale, Dorothy Canfield Fisher, Rose Wilder Lane, and Josephine Herbst", written by Julia C. Ehrhardt.

Post then turned the conversation over to the DCF Reading Committee and Friends of Dorothy Canfield Fisher. Julie Picket stated that the Dorothy Canfield Fisher Award is the 2nd oldest book award in the United States. Deborah Granquist asked these committees who funds this book award. Scott Murphy stated that LSTA grant money is used for Department of Libraries staff and some money is also given to the committee to administer this book award.

Josh Fitzhugh asked Dow to clarify if Dorothy Canfield Fisher was a part of the Eugenics Committee. Dow said, "Yes she was, due to the report she worked on." Picket (Friends of DCF) requested that the

Department of Libraries do more research on this topic. Post stated that more conversation is needed before the board gives any recommendations on this topic.

Maxie Ewins (waiting on Governor confirmation to be reappointed to board) wanted to make sure that everyone remembers that the most important thing about the Dorothy Canfield Fisher Book Award is that it is about children's books. Ewins has always known this award as the Dorothy Canfield Fisher Award, and stated that Fisher was a very accomplished writer.

Other opinions on a change of name to the Dorothy Canfield Fisher Book Award were shared by others in attendance. Joy Worland, from the VLA, did not think that children would mind if the name of this award was changed. Cheryl Sloane added that the DCF committee had been talking about renaming the award before this conversation came about.

Bruce recommended that the DCF Committee and/or the Department of Libraries and Judy Dow get together to discuss and talk about a name change to this book award. The Department of Libraries will do more research into the history of this award and Dorothy Canfield Fisher.

2017 Capital Bill (H.519)

Murphy gave an update on the Capital Bill (H.519) and the Department of Libraries move out of 109 & 111 State Street. The Vermont Historical Society (VHS) has now been added as a possible site for the department's move. The cost of a move to VHS was discussed by the board. Discussion was held on how a move to VHS would work for department collections.

Leadership Search for State Librarian

Bruce told the board that Suzanne Young, Secretary of Administration, told him that there is about 6 applicants to look at for State Librarian. Granquist recommended that Post send Young an e-mail letting her know that the board is available to help in anyway possible.

Board of Library Appointments

There are a couple of empty seats on the board. The board asked the Department of Libraries to look into what remains on all board members terms.

Geographic Naming: Statutory Responsibilities and Future Role of Board of Libraries

In July, the board will be reviewing the request to rename Mt. Ascutney. Discussion was held on what needs to be done by the Department of Libraries for this discussion, and a decision to be made on the requested name change to Mt. Ascutney. Fitzhugh recommended that this meeting take place in or near Mt. Ascutney or West Windsor. Fitzhugh also recommended that the naming meeting be held at a separate time from the July board meeting, due to the potential for extended discussion time needed for this name change.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of January 10, 2017 were passed unanimously with these corrections:

Page 1, add Vice Chair after Deborah Granquist

Page 2, in Department of Libraries: Transition of Leadership, change 2018 to 2010

Deborah Granquist recommended to accept minutes of January 10, 2017 with changes. Josh Fitzhugh seconded, and all approved.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:45 p.m.