

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARIES

BOARD OF LIBRARIES

MINUTES

Midstate Regional Library, Berlin

10:30 A.M.

August 15, 2006

Present: John Rosenthal, Chair  
David Brown  
Joan Rahe  
Linda Williamson  
Susan Bruce  
Sybil McShane, State Librarian

Marianne Kotch, Public Library Support Services Director, was also present.

- 1. Minutes** – John brought the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. He asked if there were any corrections to the June minutes, there being none John said the minutes are approved.
- 2. Economic Value of Vermont's Public Libraries** – Marianne handed out copies of her report on "The Economic Value of Vermont's Public Libraries". She asked the Board for its ideas on how best to get this information out to the public. Suggestions included Vermont Public Radio - *Vermont Edition* on Wednesdays, a news release, a release at town budget time and presenting the report at the Town Officers' Training. Marianne also handed out the agenda for the annual statewide conference for trustees and librarians on October 28<sup>th</sup> at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Montpelier. The keynote speaker will be John E. Arnold, Past Chair, MA Board of Library Commissioners. Susan asked about video taping his presentation. Sybil said she would check into using RETN. Marianne advised there is a \$30 registration fee; Sybil said the Department would pay for the Board members to attend. Marianne also handed out a report entitled "Long Overdue: A Fresh Look at Public Attitudes about Libraries in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century".
- 3. Vermont Library Association (VLA) – State Aid Initiative** - Jim Reardon, Finance Commissioner, met with Sybil and members of the VLA Government Relations Committee regarding the possible addition of public library state aid to the Governor's

budget. Jim talked about FY08 pressures on the budget, listened to the group's ideas and concerns and took its request under advisement. Regardless of the outcome of the meeting, the Government Relations Committee will forge ahead with its initiative. It is asking for \$1.6 million to be distributed to libraries that meet standards. Sybil's recommendation is that this be put in the Governor's budget, regardless of the amount, to get a foot in the door that could be built upon in the future. Sybil has concerns about unintended consequences to the Department's budget and services especially the future of the two remaining regional libraries.

4. **State Librarian's Report – Survey of Vermont Library Directors** – Trini Magi, of UVM, completed the survey. Sybil has invited Trini to attend the next meeting. She handed out the final report for the Board to review prior to the October meeting. -
- Public Hearing** – Sybil advised the Board that there would be a public hearing at the October meeting. – **Vermont Online Library - VOL** – The Request for Proposal for the next contract period ends on August 31<sup>st</sup>. The proposals will be reviewed by a committee of librarians in September. - **Movie Licensing** - The majority of the public libraries, all but about 15, have signed up for the movie license. – **National Book Festival** – Amy Howlett, and possibly her daughter, will staff the Vermont booth at the National Book Festival in Washington D.C. on September 30. Sybil has ordered Vermont stickers to use with the US maps handed out at the festival. **Computer Update** – The go live date for the DOL computer upgrade is August 24<sup>th</sup>. DOL won't be circulating any books for 3 to 5 days. The biggest change will be for the staff. **National Foundation for the Blind** - An additional \$20,000 was added to the Department's budget for the NFB Newline Service. This program will start in October. Patrons will be able to call an 800# and have the newspaper read to them. **Librarian C – Special Services Unit** – We have ten applicants for this position. **Federal Five-Year Evaluation** - This is due next April. Several northeastern states have joined together to hire the library consulting firm Himmel & Wilson to conduct the evaluation.

- 5. Board Updates** – Susan has visited the Barton and the Orleans libraries. It was suggested that a record of libraries visited be kept to ensure that all libraries are visited over a certain period of time. Joan and the Bennington area librarians will meet for the second time in the near future. ***Vacant Board Member Position*** – Sybil was asked if she had anyone in mind for the vacant position. She asked the Board for suggestions and a few names were mentioned. A member is needed from the Northeast Kingdom to keep the representation equal. It was noted that John has been reappointed and that David's reappointment is in the works.
- 6. Board Mission Statement Discussion** – It was decided to wait one more meeting to work on the mission statement.
- 7. Other Business** – John advised that, according to the Board's By-Laws, election of officers should take place in the month of August. It was voted that ***John*** should continue as ***Chair*** for one more term and ***David*** would be the new ***vice-chair***. The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

***Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 17, 10:30 a.m., Midstate Regional Library, Berlin***

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Sybil Brigham McShane, Secretary