

**VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARIES
BOARD OF LIBRARIES**

**MINUTES OF MEETING
January 13, 2009
10:00 a.m.**

Midstate Regional Library, Berlin

Present: David Brown, Chair; John Rosenthal; Linda Williamson; Susan R. Bruce;
Martha Reid, State Librarian

Also present: John Payne (Librarian, St. Michael's College & Vermont Library Association representative), Lin Neifert (USGS Geospatial Liaison for VT and NH); Carl Rogers, Barre Town Manager; and Chip Castle, Barre Select Board member

Minutes

David Brown brought the meeting to order and asked if there were any changes or corrections to the October minutes. Hearing none he declared them approved as written.

Geographic Naming Petition: The Charles Fantoni Roundabout (Barre)

Carl Rogers and Chip Castle came to the meeting in support of a signed petition asking that the Board name a new roundabout in Barre in honor of Charles Fantoni, a well-known citizen of Barre who is being treated for terminal cancer.

Before hearing the geographic naming proposal, David Brown read aloud a portion of the Vermont Board of Libraries Geographic Naming Policy, which states that geographic features cannot be named in commemoration of living persons. Discussion ensued regarding the reason behind the policy and the consequences of setting a precedent by veering from the policy. John Rosenthal made a motion to approve the request from the Town of Barre to name the newly constructed roundabout, at the intersection of Routes 302 and 110, the "Charles Fantoni Roundabout." Linda Williamson seconded the motion. Ms. Williamson asked that the minutes reflect that "we are aware of the [policy] guideline and set it aside for compassionate reasons." Mr. Brown asked that the minutes also reflect the Board Chair's recommendation that the Policy be revisited very soon, and be revised within the next year. All voted in favor of Mr. Rosenthal's motion. Mr. Rogers will send a copy of the Select Board's action for inclusion with these minutes. Discussion followed regarding the various state agencies that need to be notified of naming decisions, including: the Agency of Transportation, Travel & Tourism, and the Agency of Public Safety (911 emergency services database.)

Guest Presentation: Lin Neifert, USGS Geospatial Liaison for VT & N H

Mr. Neifert reviewed the duties of USGS in regard to geographic naming and advised the Board that in future he will refer all Vermont geographic naming requests that come to his office to the Board of Libraries and will send all information directly to the State Librarian. In return the Board agreed to contact Mr. Neifert when discussing new or revised naming policies. Mr. Neifert explained that USGS only participates in the naming of natural features and that the federal commemorative naming policy requires that persons to be honored must have been dead for at least five years. The Board will take the federal policy into account when revising the Vermont policy; it may be important for the Vermont policy to conform to USGS requirements. Mr. Neifert emphasized the importance that name changes be reported to the proper agencies and entities that create maps, including the Vermont Tourism office.

State Librarian's Report

Ms. Reid advised the Board that the Department has discovered a geographic naming petition that is more than one year old and requires action. She will ask Jacob Humbert (Attorney General's Office) to see how we should proceed.

New Board Members: The Board of Libraries currently has three vacancies. Librarians from around the state have submitted nominations to submit to the Governor's office for appointment. Ms. Reid has requested that Ms. Williamson be reappointed. She raised the idea that because of budget cuts to the Department of Libraries, it may be wise to keep the member level at five instead of seven. No decision was made.

Budget Cuts: Ms. Reid advised the Board that FY09 and FY10 budget cuts may require a change in the structure of the Department of Libraries and new ways to deliver services. She met with Secretary of State Deb Markowitz in a "get-acquainted" session that included a short discussion about moving the DOL to the Secretary of State's Department. Nothing concrete has happened to date.

Vermont Public Library Foundation (VPLF) Board: Due to retirements and resignations, more directors are needed for the Vermont Public Library Foundation Board. The State Librarian is the President of the Foundation. Ms. Reid has temporarily appointed Grace Greene to the VPLF Board, filling the slot of the former Public Library Support Services Director. One Board position is to be filled by a member of the Board of Libraries. Susan Bruce nominated John Rosenthal for this position and all voted in agreement. The Vermont Library Trustees Section of the Vermont Library Association recently elected David Brown as their Chair, and he agreed to serve on the VPLF Board. The fifth director is from the Public Library Section of the Vermont Library Association.

In December Dr. Burnett Rawson donated \$75,000 to VPLF for Winnie Belle Learned grants to public libraries. A new round of grants will be administered this winter. Ms. Reid reported that available Freeman Foundation funds will be considerably less than in previous years due to the decrease in interest income.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is sponsoring the last round of hardware grants to public libraries; this year Vermont libraries will be screened for eligibility using formulas for population (poverty levels) and the viability of individual libraries' computer technology. The Gates Foundation will provide eligible public libraries with \$2,600 per workstation, based on their service area population. The libraries will be required to provide 25% matching funds in the first year and a 50% match in the second year.

Ms. Reid has compiled a list of Vermont public libraries that have “shovel-ready” construction projects. She anticipates that there will be some money available in the federal stimulus plan for such projects.

Public Library Minimum Standards

Rob Geiszler, SW Regional Library Consultant, serves as the State Library Data Coordinator, and has collected the annual statistical reports and standards applications from libraries to be published in March 2009. He received a letter from the Chairwoman of the Board of Trustees of the Chittenden Public Library requesting a waiver for their library in order for them to meet Vermont minimum standards. They do not meet Standard # 19 which requires that library directors participate each year in continuing education and work towards certification. The Chittenden Library Director has not participated in any DOL continuing education since 2001 and has not achieved state certification. The Board discussed this situation and their consensus was to deny the waiver. The State Librarian will write the letter stating that the waiver has been denied.

Schedule of 2009 meetings

The next meeting will be April 14, 2009, with time and location to be determined at a later date. Meetings for the balance of the calendar year are: July 14 and October 13.

The meeting adjourned at noon.

Martha Reid, Secretary

