

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARIES

BOARD OF LIBRARIES

MINUTES

Hartland Public Library, Hartland

10:30 A.M.

June 20, 2006

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

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

- 1. Welcome and Tour, Elaine Caffrey, Hartland Public Library Director** – Elaine welcomed the Board and talked about the history of the library. Originally, the library was a private home. The town bought the building and it was renovated into a library. Elaine used the VPLF/Freeman money for air conditioning, meeting room chairs, a projector and screen, part of the library automation and a coordinator for programs. She gave the Board a tour of the library. The meeting reconvened at 11:20 a.m. and John thanked Elaine for the tour.
- 2. Minutes** – John asked if there were any corrections or omissions to the April minutes. David said seeing none, I move that they be approved. Linda seconded the motion.
- 3. State Librarians Report** – Sybil has purchased a state-wide license for libraries to show movies. The department paid the first year cost of \$12,000. Next year the libraries may have to contribute a small amount towards the cost. **Vermont Online Library (VOL)** – The libraries have been surveyed about which databases they would like available on VOL. The top choices were general periodicals and health. Sybil hopes to provide a number of databases and make others available at a reduced rate.  
**Budget** –The National Federation for the Blind has newspapers that are accessible via phone. The cost is \$20,800 per year. The state will pay for one year beginning in September of 2006. There will be 200 newspapers available. We have 2,000 eligible

patrons at the Special Services Unit in Berlin. An additional \$20,000 was added to our FY07 budget to help pay for this program. **State Aid** - The Vermont Library Association is meeting with the State Finance Commissioner on June 30<sup>th</sup> to discuss a possible request for \$1.6 million for state aid to libraries in the FY08 budget. Sybil will attend the meeting. Discussion ensued about the possible outcome of the meeting. **Survey** - Trina Magi has completed her survey of Vermont library directors. The results are overwhelmingly positive. Generally, the librarians are happy with what the Department of Libraries is doing. **DOL Staff Meeting** – Mike Smith, Secretary of Administration, attended the June 14 Department staff meeting. This gave staff an opportunity to meet him and he asked for their impressions from the field and about the future of libraries. **Department of Education Position** – Sybil and Dan Greene, representing VEMA, met with Education Commissioner, Richard Cate, to discuss the reinstatement of an School Library/Media Center consultant position at the Dept. of Education. Sybil has offered to fund one-half of the position for two years with Federal LSTA funds. As of yet, no decision has been made. **System Upgrade** – The DOL is in the process of upgrading its computer system. August 24<sup>th</sup> is the go live date. The public won't see much change, but it will be a big change for Department employees. Once this upgrade is complete, the library system at the Special Services Unit will be upgraded. **Public Library Support Services Director Update** – Marianne handed out a draft "Summary of Findings from the Analysis of Vermont Public Library Statistics". This summary shows the direct and indirect economic impact of all Vermont public libraries. John asked Marianne what stood out the most in the library statistics. Marianne said both the number of programs and library usage is up. Marianne also handed out a draft registration for the "Economic Value and Vermont's Public Libraries" conference. The Vermont Library Trustees Assn. sponsors this annual statewide conference with assistance from the Vermont Department of Libraries. The conference will be held October 28<sup>th</sup> at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Montpelier. In April, Marianne attended the Friends of the Libraries meeting in Northfield. Nancy Graff was the keynote speaker.

Marianne handed out copies of Nancy's speech. Marianne said it was great and Nancy deserved a pat on the back for it.

4. **Board Updates** - The Board decided to wait until Nancy was present to discuss the Board's mission statement. David, Linda and Nancy attended the VLA conference. The NELA conference will be held October 22 through the 24<sup>th</sup> at the Sheraton in Burlington.
5. **Other Business** -The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

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Sybil Brigham McShane, Secretary