



**VERMONT BOARD OF LIBRARIES
MINUTES OF MEETING**

April 14, 2015

10:00 a.m. – noon

Midstate Library Service Center
Berlin, VT

Members present: Bruce Post, Chair; Josh Fitzhugh; Anne Lezak; Maxie Ewins, Lucy Comstock-Gay; Martha Reid, State Librarian. **Also present:** Brittney Wilson, Department of Libraries; Sheila Kearns, Department of Libraries (joined the meeting after the geographic naming hearing); Bill Wilson, of Himmel & Wilson Library Consultants (joined the meeting after the geographic naming hearing) ; Virgil Fuller, Vice President, Vermont Library Association; Gwendolyn Hallsmith, citizen and spokesperson for geographic naming petition (Montpelier, left meeting after the geographic naming hearing); Michael Taub, representative of Vermonters for a New Economy (Montpelier, left meeting after the geographic naming hearing); Peter Lyon, representing the Groton Select Board (Groton, left meeting after the geographic naming hearing); Scott Hess, citizen (East Montpelier, left meeting after the geographic naming hearing).

Call to Order: Post called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Post welcomed Maxie Ewins, new member of the Board.

Additions/Changes to Agenda: None.

Public Hearing: Post opened the public hearing for citizen testimony regarding the geographic naming petition that was submitted to the Board of Libraries on September 17, 2014 by Vermonters for a New Economy to name a mountain located in the County of Caledonia, the Town of Groton and in the Groton State Forest, at coordinates 44° 12.967' N / 72° 18.833' W, as "Prosperity Peak." Post opened the floor first to Peter Lyon, a member of the Groton Selectboard. Lyons reported that Hallsmith had attended a Groton Selectboard meeting and explained the naming request. The Selectboard then brought the naming issue to the Groton Town Meeting in March. Lyons reported that by a show of hands at Town Meeting, no one in attendance favored the proposed name of "Prosperity Peak." The Groton Selectboard wrote a letter to the Board of Libraries indicating that they declined support for the name of "Prosperity Peak" and copies of the letter were distributed to Board members. Lyon added that the Town of Groton

might choose to submit a new petition for naming this feature, if the Board declined the “Prosperity Peak” petition. Gwendolyn Hallsmith, Executive Director of Vermonters for a New Economy, recapped (from her testimony given to the Board at a hearing on February 3, 2015) her reasons for the proposed name and asked to withdraw the petition, based on the Groton Selectboard’s decision. Following some discussion, the Board agreed not to withdraw the petition based on advice received from the Attorney General’s office. Michael Taub spoke in favor of the naming proposal; no other members of the public wished to testify. Comstock-Gay moved to close the public hearing; Ewins seconded the motion. Post closed the public hearing and invited comments, questions and discussion by Board members. Fitzhugh questioned whether the name “Prosperity Peak” met the requirements outlined in the Board’s Geographic Naming Policies, citing: “The Board will rely on 10 VSA § 154 in making decisions ... [and] give preference to historical events, historic persons and flora and fauna native to Vermont, names characteristic to Vermont and its traditions and local place names where long usage has made them appropriate and useful.”

Action Item:

Fitzhugh made a motion “to deny the petition”; Comstock-Gay seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Approval of Minutes: Fitzhugh moved to approve January 13, 2015 minutes as amended to correct typographical errors; Comstock-Gay seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as amended. Fitzhugh moved to approve the February 3, 2015 minutes as amended to correct typographical errors, and Comstock-Gay seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as amended.

State Librarian’s Report: Reid gave the Board an update on the FY16 budget and the proposed 17% cuts. The Board discussed the impacts of cutting the Law Library and how that will affect services and staffing at the Vermont State Library.

Vermont Automated Library System (VALS) Replacement: Sheila Kearns, IT Librarian, presented information on the need to replace the Vermont Automated Library System (VALS), the statewide library resource sharing system, with updated software and features that would make the online shared catalog easier to use by both libraries and citizens. The Department is currently working on a Request for Proposal (RFP) that will go out to vendors by early summer.

Library Consultant Bill Wilson Presentation: Wilson introduced himself to the Board and explained his previous work consulting with 27+ other state library agencies. The Department of Libraries has contracted with Himmel & Wilson Library Consultants to help the Department make changes in its organizational structure and to do strategic planning. Wilson (from Wisconsin) will meet individually with all Department employees, with a group of librarians from public, school and academic libraries, and with Department partners/stakeholders to gather information. He will return to

Vermont for a second visit, and will provide the Department with a report with ideas and at least two scenarios for how the Department might re-structure and best position itself for the future. Wilson will also set up separate phone calls with Board members.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

Next meeting:

Tuesday, July 14, 10:00 a.m. – noon, Manchester Community Library, Manchester.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Martha Reid".

Martha Reid,
State Librarian and Secretary, Board of Libraries