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VERMONT BOARD OF LIBRARIES

MINUTES OF MEETING - DRAFT

October 11, 2022

10:00 a.m. – 12:03 p.m.

Meeting Conducted Virtually via Microsoft Teams

Board Members in Attendance: Tom Frank (Chair), Maxie Ewins (Vice Chair), Deb Granquist, Adriene Katz, Bruce Post, Linda Saarnijoki, James Saunders

Others Present:

Catherine Delneo (State Librarian, Commissioner of Libraries and Secretary to the Board), Josh Muse, April Shaw, Janette Shaffer, Lynne Shea, Karen LaRue, Jennifer Runyon (USBGN), Susan Smallheer (Brattleboro Reformer), Wichie Artu, Karen LaRue, Charles Marchant, Lee Petty, Matt Dean, Matthew O'Donnell, Sarah P., Stefanie Amyot

Call to Order [00:00:00]: Chair Tom Frank called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

Roll Call: Chair Tom Frank took roll call.

Changes to Agenda: [00:06:03]: Maxie Ewins recommended adding a discussion of vacancies to the agenda. This topic was added to the agenda following the name change petition.

Public to Be Heard: [06:41] There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes of Board Meeting from August 23, 2022 [00:07:03]:

Linda Saarnijoki moved to approve the minutes as corrected.

Maxie Ewins seconded the motion.

After discussion by the board of necessary corrections, the draft minutes were corrected as follows:

p. 2 URL of U.S. Board on Geographic Names' Principles, Policies, and Procedures: Domestic Geographic Names Document corrected as follows: <https://www.usgs.gov/us-board-on-geographic-names/domestic-names>



p. 3 “Under XV, regarding notifying entities of the Board’s naming decision, edits were made as follows:

- A. Petitioner
- B. ~~Town-Clerk~~ Clerk of municipality/municipalities where feature is located
- J. Office of Legislative Counsel
- L. United States; Board on Geographic Names (USBGN)
- M. Secretary, Agency of Transportation
- W. Green Mountain ~~Hiking~~ Club”

p. 4 “Tom confirmed that the next regular meeting of the Board of Libraries will be held on Tuesday, October ~~11~~-12, 2022, from 10 am-12 pm.”

The minutes of the August 23, 2022 were approved as corrected by the Board.

State Librarian Report and Discussion [00:12:45]

https://libraries.vermont.gov/sites/libraries/files/AboutUs/Board/Supporting_Documents/VT_Board_of_Libraries_report_2022_07_12.pdf

Catherine Delneo provided a summary of information from the State Librarian’s Report October 11, 2022 and took questions from members of the board.

Linda praised the Working Group’s efforts so far and asked for a report of the Working Group at the January BOL meeting. Catherine suggested that other members of the Working Group come to present with her.

Bruce Post asked about the funding of the two surveys, the Salaries and Staffing survey and the survey of the public. Catherine verified that the Working Group’s appropriation would fund the Salaries and Staffing survey and the Department would fund the survey of the public. Bruce asked whether the Working Group and Department would work with one consultant or with multiple consultants on the two surveys. Catherine responded that the plan is to work with one consultant on both surveys to simplify logistics of contracting and engagement of the Working Group by the consultant.

Maxie Ewins recommended that different sized libraries be considered when developing the staffing and salaries survey. Catherine acknowledged that the variety in size and organization/administrative structures of public libraries adds complexity to the survey work, as does the size of staff (and populations served), as does the scope of the survey, which will include public, school, and academic libraries. Catherine shared that Vermont is in a similar situation to other states, and that not many have completed this type of survey. She mentioned that this work is often taken on by state Library Associations, that the Connecticut Library Association has completed a survey like this recently, and that the Vermont Library Association had done surveys of this type in the past. Catherine shared the





concern of the Working Group that results of this survey are important and that the work be accurate and reliable as it will serve as a basis for recommendations to the Legislature.

Bruce expressed glad that the Working Group is emphasizing the diversity and complexity of library organizations – including geographic considerations- and that he hopes the survey will capture some of the complexity of the library environment in the state.

Adriene asked how the Connecticut Library Association and Vermont Library Association compare, and about the capacity of other organizations to those in Vermont. She shared interest in learning about benefits and number of Paid Holidays. Catherine shared that the Working Group has a goal of comparing Vermont within the context of similar states (e.g. New Hampshire and Maine) and that the Working Group will seek out consultants with experience conducting surveys in Vermont. Catherine made note of Adriene’s suggestion to include holidays. Catherine also noted that lengthy or complex surveys can lead to survey fatigue.

Catherine corrected the total number of libraries participating in the Courier system, which is 134. [The State Librarian’s Report for October 11, 2022 has been revised to reflect the accurate number.]

Bruce asked about challenges of books in Vermont. Catherine shared that no-one had reached out to her directly and shared that the Department supports local libraries in creating local collection development policies and processes for responding to challenges. Janette Shaffer shared that some events and programs have challenged programs – including out-of-state callers registering concerns about programs at libraries in Vermont.

Maxie shared appreciation for the phrase “creative non-fiction”, which she had seen in the Department’s recent newsletter.

Petition to Rename Negro Brook in Townshend, VT “Huzzy Brook” [00:39:20]

Petitioner Lynne Shea presented her petition in

When previous petitioners were unsuccessful in renaming the brook, Lynne Shea worked with a Stephanie Amyot, Wichie Artu, Sarah Pugh, and Juliette Carr to engage their community in dialog about renaming the brook. Over a period of a year, they met with the Selectboard and Historical Society and engaged in an inclusive process to get feedback from the people of Townshend. Due to limitations of doing this work due to COVID, they used creative strategies to engage with the public including petition-signing opportunities at the local market, through social media, and through local news media. The community was enthusiastic about signing the petition and the renaming process.

While the origins of the naming of the Brook are not known, the group sought to change the name of the brook from a name that could be considered negative or unwelcoming to a name that honored Black Americans who had lived in the area. Ms. Shea also





shared that it is important to recognize people who lived in the area in the past so that people today can see themselves in Vermont's history.

Wichie Artu, Vice President of the Windham County NAACP shared appreciation and support for naming the brook after Black Vermonters. He articulated the importance of knowing that people of color have a history in Vermont in shaping the kind of Vermont we want to be.

Shalini Suryanarayana from the Office of Racial Equity shared appreciation for renaming and asked if there were any Native American names for the brook. Lynne Shea said that to her knowledge there had not been a specific Abenaki name for the Brook. The group had considered using the Abenaki word for "brook" but ultimately decided to propose the name Huzzy Brook. She shared that petition has the support of the local Abenaki tribe.

Sherwood Lake, Chair of the Townshend Selectboard, said that from the perspective of the Selectboard the present petition process was very inclusive and not divisive.

Charles Marchant, President of the Townshend Historical Society, said that when Lynne Shea came to them with the proposal for the new petition, the Historical Society discussed the proposal and supports it based on the historical research that was done by the current group of petitioners and prior petitioners.

Linda thanked Lynne Shea for her thorough petition and asked how many people signed the petition. Lynne reported that she had gathered more than 200 signatures.

Bruce Post indicated that he hadn't seen the signature pages of the petition in the posted materials online and said he liked the local approach the petitioner had engaged in. Catherine shared that the petition with signatures is available for review at the Department of Libraries, but that it was not shared online because it contains personal identifying information.

Lynne Shea shared appreciation for the work done by others on previous petitions and for the letters of support from local organizations.

Maxie Ewins asked if any consideration had been given to the idea of putting up a historical marker at the brook. Lynne shared that there is interest in this and that within the state park, the name Negro Brook has already been removed from signage, so a new name and new signage is really needed.

Bruce Post asked whether a stone arch bridge over the brook might have a name as well, and what was being done related to renaming the bridge. Charles Marchant indicated that there are 6 stone arch bridges made by James Otis Follet in Townshend, and each bridge is named after the road they are on. The bridge over this brook is named Follet Bridge at State Forest Road.

Deb Granquist thanked the petitioner for a thorough application and made a motion to approve the application from petitioner Lynne Shea to change the name of Negro Brook to "Huzzy Brook." The name meets the requirements of the state statute, 10





V.S.A. § 151-154. From a process point of view the application was thorough, and the process appears to have been very inclusive. It complies with the newly adopted Vermont Board of Libraries Geographic Naming Procedure.

Bruce Post seconded the motion.

Tom Frank called for any additional comment or discussion. Hearing none, he called for a vote.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the petition to rename the geographical feature “Huzzy Brook.”

Tom Frank praised the thoroughness of the petition and the work of the board in updating their Geographic Naming Procedure.

Catherine shared that the next step will be noticing per the Board’s procedure and that the official name in Vermont is now Huzzy Brook. The notice from the Board will be sent out immediately by the Department – that noticing will not wait for a decision at the federal level.

Jennifer Runyon of the USBGN said that with the Board’s approval, the name can be immediately put onto the Federal Government’s “Quarterly Review List”, which will likely come out later this week. Federally recognized Native American tribes will have 60 days from the date of notice by USBGN to respond. A USBGN vote could likely then take place in January 2023. The Board concurred that the new name, Huzzy Brook, be put on USBGN’s upcoming Quarterly Review List. Jennifer Runyon said that if the petition receives any feedback on the new name, they’ll inform the Board of Libraries and provide an opportunity to respond.

Catherine shared that she would send an email of the decision on October 11th in advance of the official notice and meeting minutes, which will be shared by the end of the week.

Bruce Post thanked Jennifer Runyon for the support she has provided to the Board of Libraries for many years.

Catherine suggested that even if the Board goes back to in-person meetings, for meetings with Geographic Naming topics on the agenda, the best practice is to host a hybrid meeting so that remote attendance would be possible.

Board of Libraries Vacancies [01:26:46]

Maxie Ewins reminded the board that the terms of two of its members, (Bruce Post and Deb Granquist) have come to an end. As bylaws indicate the duration of the term of each member, the board needs to recruit new members. Th

Maxie Ewins, Linda Saarnijoki, and Deb Granquist formed a subcommittee which will hold a noticed, open meeting either online or in-person.





Linda will take the lead with scheduling the meeting and will share details of the meeting with Catherine, who will facilitate public notice. The group will work toward developing a one-page document that explains the role and responsibilities of members of the board.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 12:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Delneo, Secretary of the Board

Time stamp to reflect [Hours: Minutes; Seconds] in the meeting recording.

