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**VERMONT BOARD OF LIBRARIES**

**MINUTES OF MEETING - DRAFT**

**January 10, 2023**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:23 p.m.**

**Meeting Conducted Virtually via Microsoft Teams**

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

**Others Present:**

Catherine Delneo (State Librarian, Commissioner of Libraries and Secretary to the Board), Tom McMurdo, Josh Muse, April Shaw, Janette Shaffer, Gina Hruban, Jennifer Runyon (USBGN), Joplin Wistar

**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. All Board members were present except for James Saunders, whose absence was excused.

**Changes to Agenda: [00:06:10]** No changes requested.

**Public to Be Heard: [00:06:26]** There was no public comment.

**Approval of Minutes of Board Meeting from October 11, 2022: [00:06:53]**

Deborah Granquist moved to approve the minutes.

Bruce Post seconded the motion.

Discussion by the Board of minor corrections.

The Board voted on the motion.

The minutes of the October 11, 2022 were approved as corrected by the Board.

**Petition to Name Unnamed Brook in Shelburne, VT “Bumblebee Brook”: [00:17:19]**

Petitioner Joplin Wistar presented his petition.

Joplin Wistar described how the brook is regularly visited and enjoyed by schoolchildren of the Treewild Forest Classroom, a school based in Shelburne, VT. When the students discovered the brook had no name, they had discussed what to name it and had agreed on “Bumblebee Brook” in honor of the endangered bumblebee species that is found in the area.

The petitioner shared that group of these students presented the renaming proposal to the Shelburne Selectboard and the proposed name was endorsed unanimously by the Selectboard.

The Secretary of the Board asked the petitioner if the Shelburne Selectboard had shared their written support with the Department of Libraries, as that supporting documentation was not found in the Department’s files.

After consultation with Department staff, the Secretary of the Board was able to locate an email sent by Lee Krohn, Town Manager of the Town of Shelburne, Vermont to Department of Libraries staff on February 23, 2022. The Secretary shared the document on screen during the meeting, apologized by the mistake of Department staff, and stated that this email would be added to the PDF of the petition and the Board’s website following the meeting.

[https://libraries.vermont.gov/sites/libraries/files/AboutUs/Board/Supporting\\_Documents/BumblebeeBrook\\_SupportingDocumentation.pdf](https://libraries.vermont.gov/sites/libraries/files/AboutUs/Board/Supporting_Documents/BumblebeeBrook_SupportingDocumentation.pdf)

Maxie Ewins shared that Joplin Wistar has done significant work to protect the environment congratulated him on the renaming proposal.

Linda Saarnijoki shared appreciation for the involvement of the schoolchildren in naming the brook, and asked the petitioner about how signatures were collected for the petition. Joplin Wistar stated that during the pandemic, he had gathered electronic signatures from community members. Upon learning from the Secretary of the Board that original handwritten signatures were required by the Board, he gathered signatures from the students, neighbors, property owners (the brook is partially on private land), and residents from other towns who are supportive of the proposal.

Jennifer Runyon of USBGN and Catherine Delneo explained to Mr. Wistar the process of how the petition would move forward at the federal level in the event it was approved by the Vermont Board of Libraries.

Catherine Delneo asked Mr. Wistar to confirm that the brook is not located in a state park. Joplin Wistar replied that most of the brook is on private land, plus a small section on town property, and none of the brook is within a state park.

Catherine Delneo read from the Board’s Geographic Naming Procedure related to local use and acceptance and asked Joplin Wistar whether the private land holders



were supportive of his petition to name the unnamed brook “Bumblebee Brook.” Joplin Wistar stated that most, if not all, of the local landowners had signed the petition to reflect their support.

Bruce Post made a motion to approve petition by Joplin Wistar of Shelburne, Vermont to name an unnamed brook in Shelburne, Vermont located at the coordinates in the petition (Longitude: Mouth: 73.21652W / Source: 73.20418W, Latitude: Mouth: 44.36192N / Source: 44.38050N) “Bumblebee Brook.”

Maxie Ewins seconded the motion.

Bruce Post asked the petitioner if there were any letters of support from Native American Tribes recognized by the State of Vermont. The petitioner responded that he had not reached out to any of the Native American Tribes recognized by the state.

Board members asked whether it was a requirement that petitioners include written support from Native American Tribes. The Board Secretary read from the Board’s Geographic Naming Procedure and confirmed that while “the Board strongly encourages the Petitioner to include written support for the proposal” from Native American Tribes and others “because local use and acceptance of a name is important,” that state statute does not state that such these written letters of support are required.

Joplin Wistar expressed a willingness to engage with Native American Tribes recognized by the State of Vermont and expressed uncertainty about how to connect with such groups.

The Board Secretary shared that, at the request of Chair Tom Frank, she had emailed the petition on December 20, 2022 to strongly encourage him to obtain letters of local support per the Geographic Names Procedure.

The Board Secretary shared that the Department of Libraries would be happy to provide the petitioner with the contact information for the Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs, who by state statute work with the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation related to Abenaki place names in State parks. 10 V.S.A. § 2613 <https://vcnaa.vermont.gov/>

The Board Secretary shared that per the VCNAA website, four Vermont tribes are currently recognized by the State of Vermont and that three of the groups have links to their websites listed on the VCNAA website. <https://vcnaa.vermont.gov/cultural-resources>

The Board discussed the possibility of making a naming decision contingent upon receiving a letter of support from one or more of the Native American Tribes recognized by the State.

The Board discussed the importance of being consistent across naming decisions.

Bruce Post called the question.



A vote was taken with 2 in favor of more discussion and 4 in favor of voting on the original motion to approve

Tom Frank called for a vote on the motion previously made by Bruce Post, to approve petition by Joplin Wistar of Shelburne, Vermont to name an unnamed brook in Shelburne, Vermont located at the coordinates in the petition (Longitude: Mouth: 73.21652W / Source: 73.20418W, Latitude: Mouth: 44.36192N / Source: 44.38050N) “Bumblebee Brook.”

The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

The Board Secretary shared that the next step will be noticing per the board’s procedure and that the official name in Vermont is now Bumblebee Brook.

A notice of the Board’s decision to name the brook Bumblebee Brook will be sent out by the Department per the Geographic Naming Guidelines.

The Board will also request that USBGN put this name on its docket for consideration through the federal process.

**State Librarian Report and Discussion: [00:00:50] (Part 2 video)**

[https://libraries.vermont.gov/sites/libraries/files/AboutUs/Board/2023\\_01\\_10\\_StateLibrariansReport.pdf](https://libraries.vermont.gov/sites/libraries/files/AboutUs/Board/2023_01_10_StateLibrariansReport.pdf)

Catherine Delneo provided a summary of information from the State Librarian’s Report January 10, 2023 and took questions from members of the Board.

The group congratulated Catherine on the Vermont Department of Libraries receiving \$10M in Congressionally Directed Funding (CDS) for Public Facilities Preservation Initiative Grants to be made available to our state’s small, rural public libraries.

The group discussed how to define/identify small, rural libraries and agreed the definition must be very clear for grant applicants to understand if they qualify or not.

Catherine Delneo mentioned that the U.S. Census Bureau recently revised (Dec. 2022) the definition of ‘rural’ and ‘urban’. Under the new definition, the minimum population required for an area to be considered urban doubled, from 2,500 to 5,000 people. The news of this change stated that the federal government doesn’t have a standard definition of urban or rural, but the Census Bureau’s definition often provides a baseline.

Maxie Ewins asked if a small/rural library has private financial support, will that make a difference in grant distribution? Catherine Delneo replied that the Department’s application process will take that aspect into account, and also shared that some of



the guidance from the Federal agencies overseeing these funds has not yet been established or communicated to the Department.

**Update from Board of Libraries Recruitment Committee: [00:19:55] (Part 2 video)**

Linda Saarnijoki provided a summary of the committee's meeting on November 30, 2022. The committee has written a board member job description, made a list of qualities and characteristics of potential board members, discussed what resources can be used to recruit applicants. Linda Saarnijoki spoke with the State Librarian prior to today's board meeting to share the ideas the committee had developed.

Catherine Delneo provided clarification that Tracy Delude, Appointments Director in the Governor's Office has confirmed that it is the Governor's responsibility to appoint members of the Vermont Board of Library. The State's typical process is that an application for the vacant seats will be posted on the Department of Human Resources website and shared with the Vermont Bar Association and Agency of Education. Adriene Katz expressed that she likes the idea of HR posting this application opportunity, to support diversity and transparency.

The group discussed who should review the applications; Catherine Delneo suggested it was customary that the Chair and Commissioner review the applications together and provide their informal recommendation to the Governor's staff.

Linda Saarnijoki offered that the members can also encourage people to apply for the vacant seats on the Board via word-of-mouth, as it can be a very useful way to encourage individuals to apply for the opportunity to serve on the Board.

The Board Secretary reviewed the end date of each Board member's term per Department records, and asked Board members to confirm the Department's records by email following the meeting.

**Election of Officers: [00:42:50] (Part 2 video)**

Maxie Ewins moved to reelect Tom Frank as Chair of the Vermont Board of Libraries.

Bruce Post seconded the nomination.

The motion passed unanimously.

Maxie Ewins nominated Adriene Katz to serve as Vice Chair of the Vermont Board of Libraries.

Linda Saarnijoki seconded the nomination.

The motion passed unanimously.

**Closing: [00:47:00] (Part 2 video)**

Chair Tom Frank asked if the Board would like to discuss amendments to the



recently adopted Geographic Naming Procedures in light of the earlier discussion of local input.

The Board Secretary suggested that if any member of the board would like to propose amendments to the Geographic Naming Procedures, this item could be put on a future agenda. She recommended that it would be best for any proposed amendments to be presented in writing and posted to the Board's website in advance of such discussion.

The Board Secretary mentioned that the Board's Bylaws have not been revised since May 2014 and that some minor adjustments are needed to bring the Bylaws up to date.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 12:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Catherine Delneo, Secretary of the Board

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

