



**VERMONT BOARD OF LIBRARIES
MINUTES OF MEETING
January 13, 2015
10:00 a.m. – noon
Midstate Library Service Center
Berlin, VT**

Members present: Bruce Post, Chair; Deborah Granquist, Vice Chair; Josh Fitzhugh; Anne Lezak; Martha Reid, State Librarian. **Also present:** Brittney Wilson, Department of Libraries; Virgil Fuller, Vice President, Vermont Library Association.

Call to Order: Post called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

Additions/Changes to Agenda: None.

Minutes: October 14, 2014 meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

The meeting started with the election of officers. Fitzhugh nominated Post to continue as Chair; the Board unanimously approved the motion. Fitzhugh nominated Granquist to continue as Vice Chair and the Board unanimously approved the motion.

State Librarian's Report: Reid reported the completion of the Vermont Fiber Connect project which linked 43 public libraries with high-speed fiber-optic connectivity and a state-managed wide area network. Reid then talked about the end of the Vermont Digital Economy Project, a federally-funded project under the leadership of the VT Council on Rural Development. This project included CCV student Internet Interns in 24 public libraries who provided digital skills training for citizens, and new equipment purchases for those same libraries. Reid updated the Board on the FY15 and FY16 budgets. The Department of Libraries faces a FY16 budget reduction of nearly \$500,000. The final number will be available at the time of the Governor's Budget Address on January 15. Other topics included the new VTLIB website (to launch February 2), the new VTLIB Facebook page, and the need to replace the Vermont Automated Library System (VALS). VTLIB employees will be talking with potential vendors this month.

State Library Standards: Granquist gave an update from the Standards Committee meeting. At that meeting Reid reported on her survey of other states regarding state standards for public libraries. Other states use a variety of approaches and there is no national standard or model. Some states have no standards program; others use

standards to determine state funding awards to libraries. The Standards Committee concluded that in order to develop a good program for Vermont, libraries need to have a central role in the planning. Reid will convene a committee of key public library personnel to form a working group on standards revision. Board members will be invited to take part in planning meetings.

Regarding the FY14 Standards applications, Reid reported that there are serious inconsistencies with the current Standards program making it difficult for fair and meaningful “awarding” of standards. In addition, some 60 libraries submitted incomplete or questionable applications this year which would require intensive follow-up by VTLIB staff. Reid recommended to the Board that the VT Public Library Standards program be suspended for FY14 and that data gathered from this year’s applications be used to inform a new Minimum Standards program for Vermont public libraries. Discussion followed about possible changes: using a tiered standards approach, or aspirational benchmarks, or disbanding the standards program altogether.

Action Item: Motion was made by Granquist and seconded by Fitzhugh that “The Department of Libraries suspend the *Vermont Minimum Standards for Public Libraries* program for FY14 and that no Standards report be issued for FY14, and that no VTLIB services or grants be dependent on Standards status, until a new Standards program is in place; and that the Department of Libraries use data collected from the FY14 Standards applications to inform future decisions regarding a Standards program and that the State Librarian move forward with a process to revise the Standards program.” The motion was approved unanimously.

The last item of business was a request from the State Librarian that the Board hold a special meeting in February for a public hearing regarding a geographic naming petition. Wilson will poll the members of the Board to find a suitable date and set up the public meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m

Next meeting: Special meeting to be scheduled in February.

Next regular meeting: Tuesday, April 14, 10:00 a.m. – noon. Location to be announced at a later date.

Respectfully submitted,



Martha Reid,
State Librarian and Secretary, Board of Libraries