

**VERMONT BOARD OF LIBRARIES
MINUTES OF MEETING**

DRAFT

**January 8, 2019
10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Middlebury Town Office
Middlebury, Vermont**

Members present: Bruce Post (Chair), Deborah Granquist (Vice Chair), Jason Broughton (Interim State Librarian, Secretary), Tom Frank, Maxie Ewins, Rebekah Irwin

Others present: Cherie Yaeger (Executive Assistant to the State Librarian), Cindy Webber (VLA President)

Call to Order: Chair Bruce Post called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Draft minutes of the October 9, 2018 meeting were distributed to board members. No changes were proposed to draft minutes.

Deborah Granquist made a motion to approve the October 9, 2018 minutes. Tom Frank seconded. All members approved unanimously in favor to adopt the minutes of October 9, 2018.

Organizational Meeting:

Cherie Yaeger reviewed board member contact information, term expirations, completing expense forms, and had all members submit a new W-9.

Election of Board Officers were held. Bruce Post re-elected by unanimous vote as Chair. Deb Granquist re-elected as Vice Chair by unanimous vote.

Bruce asked Cindy Webber to introduce herself and to provide an update to the board on the flooding that occurred at Stowe Free Library

Meeting dates for 2019 were set for the second Tuesday, of April, July, and October.

Department of Libraries Update:

Interim State Librarian Jason Broughton notified the board that Scott Murphy resigned his position of State Librarian.

Bruce Post will contact AOA Secretary Suzanne Young to let her know the board is available for consultation in the search for a State Librarian.

Bruce Post will draft a letter to Scott thanking him for his service as the State Librarian. Bruce will write the letter and send to Jason and Cherie to mail to Scott.

Grant Program, Jason updated the board on the new grant program that the Department of Libraries in starting up in 2019.

Jason told the board that AOA Financial Operations Division said the FY '19 budget the VTLIB created was the best budget from this department in 8 years.

The Department is looking at the Learning Express Data Base for statewide use. This means not only Job Hunt Helpers Libraries will be able to use learning express. The Department also wants to roll this out to all State Departments and Agencies as well.

The Department has been tasked with helping in the 2020 Census. Jason went over the strategy that the Department has for the census and how libraries can help people complete the 2020 Census. Board members shared some ideas and thoughts that could be used for the Census, Jason will bring these to the Census Committee.

Jason explained to the board that the department is rebalancing with the departure of Scott. Discussion with the Department is to work on the services that are offered to state employees, work with all libraries, such as; public, school, private, and academic. We are concentrating on find the best way to help people and libraries the best way we can, with the limited funds we have available.

Maxie Ewins asked if the Department is setting priorities since we have so much going on. Jason, said, yes, we are monitoring all work and making sure that we are progressing so that we can maintain funds and services long term.

Stemming from the Director's Summit, Jason has been receiving questions in reference to what the Board of Libraries does for libraries and the department. Bruce said the board is here to advise the State Librarian and to conduct geographic naming. Another takeaway from the director's summit is that the Department will provide more training to libraries based on what librarians at the summit said they need help with.

Bruce asked if there was an update on Vermont Public Library Foundation (VPLF). Nothing can be done at this time, Scott needs to be removed from the account and we need to add Jason to this account until a fulltime state librarian is hired. VPLF will be added to April board meeting.

Book Awards

Jason told the board that the department is looking at the history of book awards within the state, and how all book awards could, potentially, be brought back into the fold of the Department. This is a discussion that will take place at a later time, when a new State Librarian is in place. Jason is cognizant of the increase in spending if all 3 books awards are brought into the department, and other options are being looked at as well to make sure these awards can be kept going long term. Since we are in another transition period, the department will have to wait for any decision to be made on renaming DCF until a new State Librarian is appointed.

Bruce Post called a break for lunch at 12 p.m.

Call to Order: Chair Bruce Post opened the hearing at 1:10 p.m.
Cindy Webber (VLA President) in attendance.

Bruce asked about having another forum for State Librarians with the Board of Libraries. Jason agreed that this would be a good idea. Bruce asked the board how the next three board meetings could be used to meet with librarians from around the state and hear from them on the state of libraries in Vermont.

Deb Granquist asked Cindy if there are any reoccurring themes that come up within the library community. Cindy stated, from the VLA Summit held last year, they focused on 6 issues. These issues are:

- Access to information – types of materials available, such digital
- Library messaging – advocacy, marketing, etc.
- VLA – Organizational structure – is this sustainable
- State collaboration
- Pay for library employees
- Library buildings – structures, improvements

A discussion was held concerning what VLA is and what they do for libraries. The VLA Summit was discussed and what the take away was for VLA. The three key issues that VLA feels they can work on is library buildings, state collaboration, and advocacy and marketing.

Cindy asked the board if they write a report to the State Librarian. Bruce said the board is an advisory board. The board does not have to write a report, but could if they wanted to. Maxie brought up the idea of libraries working together, and creating a branch library system.

Discussion then went back to what the goal or end product would be for the board to meet with librarians. Could this be the start of the conversation of standards? Other ideas that came from this conversation were:

- Guidelines for best practices
- Taking a pulse of libraries
- Funding discussion

- Standards / meeting the minimum training for becoming a librarian
- Starting at ground level and building everything libraries – from the ground up.

Cindy mentioned that libraries are not sure what the Department of Libraries is doing. The don't know what the department does for libraries or librarians within the state.

The board agreed that the next board meeting will be held on April 16th, at the Department of Libraries, in the Community Room. The board invited VLA to attend this meeting, as well as employees from the department. This meeting will be used as a time for the Board of Libraries, Department of Libraries, and Vermont Library Association to say, "what we do" and "how we do it".

Due to the many transitions within the Department of Libraries over the last few years, the department will go over; what they used to do, what the departments current goals and work is, and where the department is going in the future.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.