

VERMONT BOARD OF LIBRARIES
MINUTES OF MEETING

January 10, 2017
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Midstate Library Service Center
Berlin, Vermont

Members present: Bruce Post, Chair; Deborah Granquist, Vice Chair; Josh Fitzhugh, Jim Gish, ,
Maxie Ewins (via teleconference), Martha Reid, State Librarian

Others present: Joy Worland, Vice Chair, Vermont Library Association (VLA); Cherie Yaeger,
Executive Assistant to the State Librarian; Sandra (Sandy) Vitzthum, VT Department of
Buildings and General Services (first part of meeting); Suzanne Young, Secretary, Agency of
Administration (last half of meeting)

Call to Order: Chair Bruce Post called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. and asked for introductions
from all those in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of July 10, 2016 were passed unanimously with these corrections:

Page 2 corrected spelling: Mskaskek.

Page 3, next to last paragraph, left out 'H' of statement/

Minutes of October 11, 2016 passed unanimously with no corrections.

Election of Officers

Jim Gish moved (seconded by Fitzhugh) to reelect existing officers: Bruce Post, Chair and Deborah
Granquist. Martha Reid (State Librarian) serves as Board secretary. Motion passed unanimously.

2017 Capital Bill Proposal: Renovation of Midstate Library Service Center in Berlin

Sandy Vitzthum reviewed the proposed renovation plans for Midstate Library Service Center to house
the entire operation and staff of the Department of Libraries. This renovation project has been
proposed for inclusion and passage in the 2017 Capital Bill. The Department of Buildings and General
Services (BGS) started working on this project in August 2016, part of a larger project that will include
renovation of 111 State Street in Montpelier. (111 State Street is the current location of State Library
stacks, the Interlibrary Loan/Mailing Center, and a State Library reading room. Following Vitzthum's
presentation, there was discussion and Q&A. Joy Worland asked if it would be helpful for VLA to
write a letter of support to the House Committee reviewing the renovation plans. Both Vitzthum and
board members agreed that letters of support for this project would be welcome.

Geographic Naming: Statutory Responsibilities and Future Role of Board of Libraries

Chair Post led a general discussion on the board's role on geographic naming, and the need for the
Board to better balance its dual responsibilities of (1) geographic naming, and (2) advisory role to the
state librarian. He presented four options for how the board might address geographic naming in the
future:

- 1) Maintain status quo
- 2) Possible reconstitution of Board membership and the elimination of the naming responsibility
- 3) Maintain naming as a Board responsibility, but set up a separate geographic subcommittee that could include other (state) agency representatives
- 4) Increase the number of regular Board meetings. Change bylaws to specify when naming petitions would be considered.

Fitzhugh recommended elimination of two options. Granquist stated that she would like to schedule special meetings for geographic naming testimony and decision-making and keep regularly scheduled Board meetings focused on library issues. Gish stated that he thinks four Board meetings (a total of 8 hours) is not enough time for the Board to fulfill responsibilities and adequately do the required work. He suggested that the Board have six meetings a year, with geographic naming scheduled at just two of those meetings. Ewins said that she would like the Board to set priorities, and suggested that geographic naming responsibilities may not be appropriate for the Board of Libraries. It was the consensus of the Board that more time be spent on library issues and advising the state librarian.

Fitzhugh recommended that a decision not be made until a new State Librarian is appointed. Bruce recessed/suspended this discussion.

Department of Libraries: Transition of Leadership

Suzanne Young, Secretary of the Agency of Administration, explained the statutory authority of the Governor to fill appointed positions, including that of state librarian. The statute gives appointing authority of the State Librarian position to the Secretary of Administration with approval from the Governor. State Librarian Reid's last day of work will be February 18, and the Secretary was looking to the Board to provide information on the work of the state librarian. Reid provided a description of the roles and responsibilities of the State Librarian, and history on the process used when she was appointed State Librarian in 2010 (Governor Douglas administration). Following general discussion, Fitzhugh made a motion for the Board to go into executive session with Secretary Young (Granquist seconded). The Board unanimously passed the motion and all individuals other than the Board members and Secretary Young (not including Reid) left the room during the executive session.

Other Business: Following Executive Session

Fitzhugh made a motion for Reid to draft a letter of support from the Board of Libraries to the Legislature for the Capital Bill proposal to renovate the Midstate Library Service Center. (Granquist seconded). The motion passed unanimously. Post will review the letter and sign it as representative for the Board.

Geographic Naming – The State Librarian has received a petition for renaming Mt. Ascutney. Testimony on the petition will be scheduled at a special meeting in May, or at the July Board meeting. Reid will communicate this information to the citizen who initiated the petition.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.