

**VERMONT BOARD OF LIBRARIES  
Special Geographic Names Hearing  
DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING**

**DRAFT**  
**April 13, 2021**  
**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**  
**Meeting conducted**  
**Virtually via Microsoft**  
**Teams**

**In Attendance:** Bruce Post (Chair), Deborah Granquist (Vice Chair), Tom Frank, Maxie Ewins, Linda Saarnijoki, James Saunders, Adriene Katz, Jason Broughton (Secretary)

**Others Present:** Cherie Yaeger (VTLIB), Janette Shaffer (VTLIB), Thomas McMurdo (VTLIB), April Shaw (VTLIB), Josh Muse (VTLIB), Alexander Hazzard (Negro Brook Alliance)

**Call to Order:** Chair Bruce Post called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**Public to be Heard:** No comments from attendees.

**Geographic Naming:**

The Board discussed when to schedule a special meeting to continue the Renaming of Negro Brook hearing. Bruce Post asked Alex Hazzard, representing the Negro Brook Alliance, if they had any dates for the board to consider when rescheduling this hearing. Mr. Hazzard asked that it not be on a Tuesday. Adriene Katz asked that they take into consideration the date of the Vermont Library Association (VLA) Conference. The VLA conference will take place at the end of May and beginning of June.

Deb Granquist asked that the board not spend a great deal of time coming up with an exact date. She asked if a poll could be sent out to each board member and the Negro Brook Alliance with dates and times and based on the answers from that poll a date and time would be set. Due to geographic naming procedures and allowing time for the Negro Brook Alliance to prepare for the hearing it was agreed by the board, VTLIB and Alex, to schedule this hearing in the first two weeks of June. Bruce Post asked that VTLIB send the poll out after the board meeting.

Tom Frank moved to have the Board schedule a special meeting at the Board of Libraries meeting in April. The board is looking to schedule the special meeting in May. Maxie Ewins seconded this motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Review of Meeting Minutes from 12/8/2020 & 1/12/2021:**

Made corrections to December 8, 2020 board meeting based on Bruce Post's review. Spelling corrected for Underground Railroad, other grammatical changes and specific wording was corrected. All attendees were added

to meeting minutes. Bruce Post identified that Elise Guyette was at the meeting but not listed in the attendees list. This will be corrected on the minutes.

Tom Frank made a motion to accept the December 8, 2020 meeting minutes with the corrections that had been mentioned. James Saunders seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The board reviewed the January 12, 2021 meeting minutes.

- Go back through December meeting recording to find out who asked the question if applicants for Paige Brook researched indigenous peoples in the area. In the meeting minutes add the name of the person who inquired this.
- Maxie Ewins asked about comments that Jason had in reference to Negro Brook. Go back through December meeting recording to find comments from Jason and add to minutes.
- Bruce Post asked for VTLIB to check with the Governor's office on incorrect board expirations for Linda and Tom.
- Other corrections, changes and updates were given by Bruce Post.
- Bruce Post asked that the meeting minutes be sent to the board early enough for all members to review minutes so they can get any changes to VTLIB before the next board meeting. VTLIB can then make the changes and the board will review the minutes with board members corrections and changes. This will allow the board to vote on approving previous meeting minutes at the next meeting.

The board tabled a vote on the January 12, 2021 meeting minutes until changes and corrections are made. These minutes will be reviewed again at the July meeting.

### **ABLE Library Update**

Janette Shaffer, Assistant State Librarian for Library Advancement, and Wendy Clark, an employee in the ABLE Library, updated the Board on the programs and services at the ABLE library.

- Tom Frank and Janette were invited to present at the Shrewsbury library with Jack Trainor of Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (VABVI). Their goal is to make library more accessible.
- Consultant for Special Populations position has been posted. Closes on 4/12/21.
- The ABLE library currently serves 1,361 patrons.
- Updates made to ABLE library website for better navigation and added partner pages. Janette Shaffer explained that her goal is to see the ABLE Library as its own entity, with a separate website from the VTLIB website. Linda Saarnijoki asked why Janette would like the ABLE Library to have its own website. Janette explained that it would allow VTLIB more control over making the ABLE Library more accessible to patrons and shoot for a higher accessibility rating with NLS.
- Eligibility certification requirements have been loosened for people with reading disabilities. Now includes professional staff of hospitals, institutions, and public or private welfare agencies, such as an educator, social worker, case worker, counselor, rehabilitation teacher, certified reading specialist, school psychologist, superintendent, or librarian.
- Patrons are fully moved to Duplication on Demand.
- ABLE had a virtual site visit from NLS.
- BARD improvements and expansion. BARD has moved to the cloud, improving capacity and download speeds and positioning the BARD system to support future NLS devices.
  - Expanding the BARD collection to include commercial audiobook publishers to convert their recordings to NLS digital talking books. BARD also was opened to network-produced audio books that meet NLS standards, making a wide selection of regional titles available to readers all over the country.

## **State Librarian Report and Discussion**

State Librarian Jason Broughton updated the Board on the work VTLIB has done over the past few months. The Department held a Library Meet-Up on Reopening protocols, ideas, and mitigation techniques for libraries heading into the Spring & Summer both indoors and outside. The department continues to provide biweekly updates on reopening, COVID19 updates, and actions. Questions remain regarding safely reopening with the spike in current COVID19 cases. Jason also went over the current statistics of library operations during COVID.

The State Librarian was asked to speak to parts of the AGO's Office on library services, diversity and inclusion, ideas on legal and law enforcement outreach to communities, and a few personal thoughts about living in Vermont as a person of color.

Financial Literacy Month is in April. This is a national educational initiative coordinated by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and the American Library Association. Content is provided by government, non-profit and educational institutions. The Department is promoting Fair Housing Month with the local libraries and the Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity.

The Department of Libraries will be receiving funding from the America Rescue Plan Act from IMLS. The Department of Libraries has started to plan the distribution of the funds. Below are options being discussed.

- Technology Grants for public libraries.
- Grants to libraries & local historical societies/ museums to work together on programs and services.
- Grants to academic libraries.
- Services for public library trustees.
- Services for school libraries.
- Grants for Courier Services.
- Outdoor and indoor library equipment for libraries
- Funding to library consortia in Vermont to purchase eBooks, Catalogs, etc.
- Funding to the Vermont Historical Society & State Museum for virtual programming (grant).

## **Federal and State Legislation**

Archives and Libraries are working on a joint administrative housekeeping. The hearings went well and lots of conversation was conducted to understand each change and impacts to Archives and Libraries in their respective roles.

Department of Libraries Budget: The budget hearing on Libraries departmental budget was successful in providing insight to the financial status of the organization, where adjustments were taken to ensure sustainable financial success, and future thoughts about the future.

The conversation for the Library Working Group Study Bill was robust on many parts of the bill regarding scope, inclusion of different voices in the library community, and testimony from the Dean of Libraries at the University of Vermont. There is a new question that was posed by the Dean of Libraries on how the academic libraries of the state can play a role in helping libraries, assisting in ways of research, evaluation, and conversations in material sharing and services, and will this study benefit Vermonters by helping them become literate, educated, and better people because of the services we provide. Overall a good conversation with new additional consideration that will be addressed through conversations.

The Department of Libraries requested funds for Fiber Connect for Libraries in the Governor's Proposal. The Department of Libraries seeks between \$450,000 to \$600,000 for the Fiber Connect Network for libraries on the network to replace aging infrastructure. This has been included in the current plans and documents.

Build America's Library Act was introduced that would provide \$5 billion to fund upgrades to the nation's library infrastructure to address challenges such as natural disasters, COVID-19, broadband capacity, environmental hazards, and accessibility barriers. Eligible uses of the funding include conducting facilities condition assessments, needs assessments, and master planning; financing new library facilities; or making capital improvements to existing library facilities, including buildings, grounds, and bookmobiles. Eligible facilities under the Build America's Libraries Act include public libraries, tribal libraries, and state libraries that provide service directly to the public.

Before the end of the meeting Deborah Granquist thanked the Department and all employees within the Department for the work they have been doing for libraries and for elevating library conversations around Vermont.

Maxie Ewins moved to adjourn the meeting. Linda Saarnijoki seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 12:00.