



**VERMONT BOARD OF LIBRARIES
MINUTES OF MEETING**

**January 12, 2016
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Midstate Library Service Center
Berlin, Vermont**

Members present: Bruce Post, Chair; Lucy Comstock-Gay, Maxie Ewins, Josh Fitzhugh, Jim Gish, Deborah Granquist, Martha Reid

Others present: Margaret Woodruff, Vermont Library Association
Tess Adone, Executive Assistant to the State Librarian

Via teleconference: Bill Wilson, Consultant, Himmel & Wilson Library Consultants

Call to Order: Chair Bruce Post called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of October 12, 2015 were approved unanimously.

Election of Officers

Deborah Granquist nominated Bruce Post as Chair; seconded by Jim Gish; unanimous approval. Post said he will accept his third and last term as Chair.

Josh Fitzhugh nominated Deborah Granquist as Vice-chair; seconded by Lucy Comstock-Gay; unanimous approval.

Department of Libraries: Strategic Direction

Bill Wilson of [Himmel & Wilson Library Consultants](#) is nearing completion of the report on the strategic direction of the Department of Libraries (VTLIB). Wilson anticipates that VTLIB will change significantly because the support for performing certain functions has disappeared. The shift can be characterized as moving away from collecting and maintaining physical resources toward providing virtual resources and services to state government and outreach and professional development services to libraries.

Wilson spoke to the need for future focus to be on delivering transformative results through statewide services and using results-based accountability to guide Department operations and programs.

Wilson recommends a reconfigured framework with two operational branches, each with a respective Deputy Director reporting directly to the State Librarian:

- 1) Technology Information Access and Operations
- 2) Library Advancement

The model is configured with the existing nineteen staff positions, although some positions likely will undergo changes in job descriptions and/or classification. Wilson explained that an emphasis on virtual delivery of services to state government would balance the duties of the reduced Department workforce so that staff also can be directed outward toward the state's local libraries.

Technology Information Access and Operations

- Wilson suggested shifting state government services away from physical collections toward state-of-the-art virtual library services. This would require increased investment in the purchase of subscription-based databases and training state government employees on how to access and use the best information.
- Improved statewide resource sharing technology is key.
- Operational support will be distributed throughout the Department.
- The Deputy Director position could potentially include the duties of LSTA Coordinator and/or data collection and reporting.

Library Advancement

- The term “library development” came out of an era pushing for developing local public libraries, whereas “advancement” is about improving libraries and their services to citizens.
- Advancement encompasses continuing education and staff professional development for local library employees.
- Advancement includes services to populations with special needs: blind, physically handicapped, and other “special” populations, including children and youth.
- Advancement addresses the need for a revised “minimum standards” program for public libraries that reflects current realities, measures progress, and has incentives. Applying new benchmarks may or may not be triggers for new forms of state aid or use of LSTA funds.
- Advancing public libraries of all sizes includes professional and technical support, both the traditional support role of consulting and the new role of leading libraries to accomplish goals.
- The Deputy Director position would include active involvement in the professional and technical support role to libraries, primarily supporting larger libraries, with another staff member in the unit focusing on small libraries and their unique needs.

The proposed model is a hybrid developed from national observations and takes into account the positives and negatives of how other state library agencies have responded to challenges. Wilson emphasized that the Department’s new strategic plan will need to have a strong marketing plan with good communication to all parties.

Discussion included noting that statewide technological needs are being addressed currently and include replacing the Vermont Automated Library System (VALS), first developed in the 1980s. With a new 21st century system, time and effort will be saved at the local level for handling Interlibrary Loan (ILL).

A pilot ILL delivery is commencing via a courier service at 80 libraries through a partnership between the Department and the Green Mountain Library Consortium.

Board of Libraries: Future Roles and Functions

Due to time constraints, discussion of this agenda item was tabled. The Board concurred that either an additional meeting be called or the annual retreat be held earlier than usual in order to discuss the item and follow up on the Himmel & Wilson report.

Other Business

Josh Fitzhugh will submit his Board reappointment renewal.

Anne Lezak has resigned from the Board.

Lucy Comstock-Gay will be moving out of state and will resign from the Board following the April meeting,

Both openings are open to recruitment discussion. Chair Bruce Post recommended having a sitting librarian on the Board.

2016 Meeting Schedule

The Board of Libraries meets quarterly (January, April, July, and October) on the second Tuesday of the month, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Board Committee meetings are scheduled as needed.

All meetings are posted on the [State of Vermont public meetings](#) list.

Date	Time	Location	Purpose
January 12, 2016	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Midstate Library Service Center	Regular meeting of Board Annual Election of Officers
April 12, 2016	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Rockingham Free Library Rockingham/Bellows Falls	Regular meeting of Board Scheduled: Geographic Naming Public Hearing
July 12, 2016	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Waterbury Public Library Waterbury	Regular meeting of Board
October 11, 2016	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Bixby Memorial Free Library Vergennes	Regular meeting of Board
<i>Board retreat Full Day Date TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>Board retreat</i>

Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.