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VERMONT BOARD OF LIBRARIES

MINUTES OF MEETING

October 10, 2023

10:02 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Meeting Conducted Virtually via Microsoft Teams

Board Members in Attendance: Tom Frank (Chair), Adriene Katz (Vice Chair), Linda Saarnijoki, Lisa Barron, Jennifer Fels, Roderick Bates, James Saunders

Others Present:

Catherine Delneo (Secretary to the Board, State Librarian, and Commissioner of Libraries), Tom McMurdo, Josh Muse, April Shaw, Janette Shaffer, Joy Worland, Gina Hruban

Call to Order: [00:00:00] Chair Tom Frank called the meeting to order at 10:02am.

Roll Call: [00:00:07]

Chair Tom Frank took roll call. All Board members were in attendance.

Changes to Agenda: [00:03:30]

Tom Frank called for changes to the agenda. There were no changes to the agenda.

Public Comment: [00:03:45]

Tom Frank called for public comment. There was no public comment.

Welcome New Members: [00:04:10]

Tom Frank introduced the new Board members; Lisa Barron, Jennifer Fels, and Roderick Bates. Each new member spoke and provided a brief background about themselves.

Catherine Delneo shared a link to the Vermont Board of Libraries website and provided an overview of the information that is provided on the website. Delneo shared that meeting agendas and supporting documents are always posted and available on the website.

Supporting link: <https://libraries.vermont.gov/state-vermont-board-libraries>

Delneo shared specific information for the new Board members, including that they will receive an @partner.gov email address specific to their role on the Board of Libraries.

Delneo explained to that the Working Group is a public body, so all communications of Board of Libraries members are subject to public record requests. Board members should use their new email addresses for all communications and should avoid discussing board business with the group via email.

Delneo let the board know that all board meetings are open to the public and will be recorded and posted online.

Delneo shared that there will be training sessions for new Board members covering Open Meeting Law and Geographic Naming procedures.

The current Board members introduced themselves to the new Board members.

Approval of Minutes of Board Meeting from July 11, 2023: [00:28:12]

Supporting document:

https://libraries.vermont.gov/sites/libraries/files/AboutUs/Board/Minutes/BOL_Minutes_20230711_DRAFT.pdf

Linda Saarnijoki made a motion to approve the minutes.

James Saunders seconded the motion.

Tom Frank called for a vote to approve the minutes.

Lisa Barron, Jennifer Fels, and Roderick Bates abstained from voting because they are new board members and were not in attendance at the July 11, 2023, Board meeting.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

Board of Libraries Overview [00:31:33]

Secretary Delneo provided an overview of the Board of Libraries according to the state statute. Delneo provided information on the roles and responsibilities of the Board, and an overview of meeting frequency, and how to attend.

Supporting link:

https://libraries.vermont.gov/sites/libraries/files/AboutUs/Board/Upcoming_Boardmeetings_2023_2025.pdf

Supporting state statute links:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/chapter/22/013>

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/22/013/00602>

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/22/013/00603>

Chair Tom Frank called for questions and comments. There were no questions or comments.

Working Group Update [00:49:30]

Catherine Delneo provided a status update of the Working Group on the Status of Libraries in Vermont and took questions from members of the Board.

Delneo shared an overview of the various topics covered in the Working Group's report to the Vermont state legislature and the leading issues facing public libraries.



Linda Saarnijoki commended the enormous scope and work performed by the Working Group.

Lisa Barron commented on the low wages reported in the Staffing and Salaries Survey which is an issue of concern.

State Librarian's Report: [01:36:30]

State Librarian Catherine Delneo provided a summary of information from the State Librarian's Report dated October 10, 2023.

Supporting document:

https://libraries.vermont.gov/sites/libraries/files/AboutUs/Board/Supporting_Documents/State%20Librarian%20Report%20to%20Board%20of%20Libraries.docx.pdf

The State Librarian took questions from members of the Board.

Linda Saarnijoki asked about the Department of Libraries two federal grants and the status of the application process.

Catherine Delneo provided a status of the grant applications and timeline of launching the applications to public libraries.

Closing and Adjournment: [01:55:55]

Tom Frank called for any additional questions or comments from the Board. There were no questions or comments.

Tom Frank called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. James Saunders made a motion to adjourn, and Lisa Barron seconded the motion.

The Board voted unanimously in favor of adjourning the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Delneo, Secretary of the Board

Time stamp to reflect [Hours: Minutes; Seconds] in the meeting recording.

