Whiting Library, Chester, Vermont

Regular Meeting of Board of Trustees

Meeting Notes – April 8, 2025

In attendance at the Whiting Library Community Room: Gail Zachariah, Jessie Krust, Matt Gorsky, Marilyn Mahusky, Donna McNeill-Hudkins. Attending via Zoom: Lora Cokolat. Absent: Lyn Smith, Bill Dakin

Public Attendance: None

Jessie Krust, Vice Chair, filling in for Bill Dakin called meeting to order at 6:30 PM

**Additions to the Agenda – None**

**Approve Minutes** from March 18, 2025 – motion to approve. Approved.

No discussion on minutes.

As Lora was not on-line yet, we went to the Youth Services Report and Directors Report

**Youth Services Report** - There is some exciting stuff. We will attach to the minutes.

Gail got new chairs and tables to replace the old in the Community Room, as well as a new projector to aid in meeting presentations Also, some of the carpet had been replaced upstairs.

Some computers have been purchased, and Kale is offering workshops to teach computer literacy.

Having two movies/documentaries via PBS, these will be shown at the library, these talk about the role of Libraries in the Communities and the role of women in the library. There is discussion also of Libraries out west that lost patronage, and a report was done on how important Libraries are to the Communities.

There is also a film about Alzheimer's, doing this in conjunction with Senior Solutions. There is a Memory Café (held at St. Lukes once a month). Gail has gone to these cafés to see what they're about.

Community Gardens would like a more formal partnership with the library. They are starting a campaign to fund green house build. What can we do for each other? Library could have a table in the greenhouse. Committee thinks we need more information. What does it mean to us and what are their expectations. We will ask for something in writing for a proposal, or memorandum of understanding.

We recommend Gail get back in touch and tell her that the greenhouse board is willing to entertain this but the group should outline what they think they see in this partnership.

IMLS – sent letters to some Libraries that funding will stop on April 1st. There are states suing for this money. One big thing for us would be the "Courier Grant" and software. This is about $1,200. We have submitted for this grant.

The Summer Reading program grant is $350. We have committed that money, and we may not get that grant.

This would be a $2,000 hit on our budgets if we do not get these grants and want to continue with these services. Big item would be that we couldn't share books and we wouldn't be able to share the information as to where books are. We also pay for the courier service to deliver books to the libraries.

We need to know how this will impact our services and our budget.

**ACTION:** Gail to prepare a report detailing how Whiting Library would be impacted by a longer-term freeze on IMLS grants for the next meeting.

Gail did report last month on what the effects might be.

Lora asked if there is another interlibrary loan program in the State of Vermont. Isn't there a small network including Springfield Library, Brattleboro. There is a consortium they belong to. Catamount and Vokal are other programs. We are on Vokal (Koha users).

**Treasurer Report:** Any questions on the Treasurer Report. There was a question on the Fundraising vs Donations on the report. The town of Chester has deposited their contribution. We did receive our first check from the Wealth Management account. She just got the reports today, she asked Laurie where that check was deposited. Laurie referred Lora back to the Unrealized loss/gain. We don't think it should be there. Laurie doesn't seem to think this is a revenue. Did she create a separate fund for these checks. On all of the transactions, Lora found that the funds were deposited under fundraising, which is not correct. This is a revenue for us. It is a realized gain. It is a distribution. It cannot be listed under fundraising.

Lora to follow up with Lori about correctly recording the wealth management account check in the financial reports.

Lora to follow up on closing the money market account with Deborah Aldridge.

Fundraising Report

Marilyn and Whiting to draft a fundraising letter for review at the May meeting.

Donna to help with drafting the fundraising letter. We will print in house. We will rein in Spring letter numbers and put more into the Fall campaign. We will mail to about 300 in June. We can get together to fold and stuff.

Fundraising Committee to purchase printing materials (1,500 number ten envelopes and 500 remittance envelopes) for the fundraising campaign. We did not include this in the budget, so we will vote on this spending. Move to allow the Fundraising to spend not in excess of $600 to get materials necessary for the Spring Mailing Campaign.

**ACTION:** Gail to send policies (volunteer policy and collection development policy) to the Policy Committee members for review.

Policy Committee (Gail, Donna, and Marilyn) to meet on April 19th at 9 AM to discuss policies.

New Business: Nothing.

No public comments.

Move to adjourn meeting at 7:15 PM Motion approved.