

Haston Library Trustee Meeting Minutes* [DRAFT]

January 9th, 2024 @6pm
Haston Library
and on Zoom

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 6:03 by Deb Grennon after Zoom update.

Agenda Amendments: Spelling Bee

Attendance: Deb Grennon, Corinna Stanley, Jeff Teitelbaum, Brenna Sturtevant, Allison Franklin, Jen Raynak, and Library Director Josh Worman.

Millie Richard was absent.

Dave Bennion and Justin Rainville attended in person, and Brooks Sturtevant attended on Zoom.

Old Business:

Retirement/Pension Issue: Deb read an email from Millie regarding the lack of retirement enrollment and contribution for Josh for the past five and a half years. The issue is quite complicated, and according to someone she spoke with at VMERS/Treasurer's office, there are potential remedies which will need town involvement. Millie learned that the town has not been using VMERS for the entirety of Josh's employment, which is part of the complication. Deb explained to the board and the Select Board members that we are going to move forward to figure out how to solve the issue. The town's personnel policy doesn't fully address the issue. The Library Board hires the Director independent of the Select Board, but the Director is a town employee. There was discussion about the contributions, which will need to be determined in order to figure out how to move forward. Lisa will have information about Josh's eligibility based on the town's policies over the past five years, as well as the number of hours he worked over those years. Justin raised the point that any town contribution would require a match from Josh. There was a discussion about meeting the budget deadline, and Josh remarked that it will be more important to do it correctly than to do it quickly. The Select Board members were thanked for their attendance, and they left the meeting.

Public Comments:

Review and Sign Warrants

Correspondence: Josh received a thank you card from Janice Santiago from the Guardian Ad Litem program.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Moved by Jeff to accept the minutes as written. Seconded. Jen fixed the date at the top. Carried unanimously to accept as amended.

Treasurer's Report: M Corinna to accept the report. Seconded. Jeff suggested the Salary and Mileage categories could be re-named to reflect that those expenses are for all library staff, not just the Librarian. Josh will ask the Town Clerk to take care of that. Carried unanimously.

Library Director's Report:

It was a pretty good December, as Decembers go. Circulation was up, and there were a good number of visits and program attendees. Needle felting was at capacity. The Polar Express was very successful, and is a great community program.

Roz from the UVM College of Medicine is working with the VLA regarding a tele-health grant for rural libraries. There will be two libraries in the pilot program, which they are hoping to expand to 50% of Vermont libraries.

The Executive Director of the New York Library Program will be the keynote speaker at this year's VLA conference, which Josh is helping to organize. The theme of the conference is "Rooted in Community."

Spelling Bee: The Library will partner with Dick Wright Pub to hold a Spelling Bee on January 31st. This will be a joint fundraiser for the Pub and the Library. Spellers will pay a registration fee, which will go to the Pub, and get pledges per word which will go to the library. Engagement will be key, to get spellers and pledgers signed up. Lots of great ideas were presented.

Coming up are a bookmark workshop, Storytelling with Grammie Jen, a Murder Mystery at the Library, a Family Movie Night, and Gosh Darn It mending day.

The social media feeds are working better, and the library is now on Instagram.

Jeff asked about t-shirts to have for sale at events, and Josh said that he and Sierra have been working on getting more merch.

Additional details are available in the report.

Committee Updates:

Policy Committee: The committee reviewed the Haston Library General Policies. The Confidentiality section was updated to reflect state policy, lowering the age for making patron records available to a custodial parent or guardian from 16 to 12. M Jeff to accept the amended policy. S C unanimously.

Personnel: The personnel committee reviewed the hiring item (point 3 under Essential Duties) of the Director Job Description and proposed adding “with input from the Board.” to the end of the sentence. M Jen S to accept the change to the policy. C unanimously.

Old Business:

Budget for 2025-2026: Nothing new since the last meeting. Josh did a great job of presenting at the Select Board meeting. Josh will rewrite the narrative slightly for the Town Report, and will read that rewrite at the Public Budget Meeting on the 23rd. Josh asked whether the budget will need to be approved before it goes into the town’s process. In Millie’s absence, the board agreed that we will need to have a special meeting to approve the budget once Lisa has a chance to look at it. That meeting will need to be warned 48 hours in advance, and will take place on Zoom on Monday the 27th at 6pm if we can get the numbers settled by then.

Board Member Recruitment: Jen and Josh will add invitations to the Town and Library newsletters. Deb asked about recruiting campers, and there was a brief discussion about Board Members needing to be Franklin residents. Some campers meet that requirement and could be asked.

New Business:

Public Budget Meeting Thursday, January 23rd: All Board Members should attend.

Town Meeting Luncheon Planning

There was discussion about using the online system again. We will use it again, but in combination with some personalized calls and specific asks. Corinna would like to pass off responsibility for the online sign-up. Allison is looking for an option that does not require registration. Brenna suggested a Google Doc, and Jen suggested creating a Google Form. Both of those could be under the Library’s account. Corinna will take care of the rolls through the school. Jeff asked if there was an updated call list. Jeff will take care of doughnuts through the Enosburg Hannaford. There was additional discussion about details. The online sign-up will go up on February 11th. Josh will add it to the newsletter.

Other Business:

Member Concerns: Jeff asked if Librarians are Mandated Reporters. Brenna did a quick search and found that school librarians are on the list, but not public librarians. There was general discussion about the welfare of younger patrons. Josh reminded the Board of the Privacy Laws upheld by the library, and how important they are. The board heartily agreed.

M Jen S to adjourn.

Adjourned at 7:26pm.

Submitted by Jen Raynak

The next meeting will be February 13th, 2025, at 6pm in the library.

*Minutes are not yet approved by all trustees, therefore this remains a draft until the next trustee meeting.