

Rochester Public Library

June 15th Board Meeting Minutes

In attendance – Jeannette Bair, Kelly Kelly, Barbara Shenton, Tony Goupee, Sandy Lincoln

1. Public Communications and Comments – none
2. Board Communications and Comments – none
3. Minutes from the previous meeting unanimously approved.
4. Review of Action Items –
 - a. Upcoming events - The selectboard approved the permit for park use for the upcoming Book Club. Tony will contact the board about the second permit for June 30th for the “Walking Home” book event. We assume it will be approved and Jeannette is proceeding with advertising and organization.
 - b. Building Maintenance - The selectboard reassures the window sill project needs and will be done although there is no forward motion. Also, no one has yet been found to paint the building. Also, the roof – leaking still. We are stalled in the bid/estimate phase and need to find a lift to attend to the repair. As our representative to the board, Tony will continue bringing up these issues at the selectboard meetings. Also, we are still waiting for Buddy Comes to appear to do the interior ceiling. Jeannette will follow through.
 - c. Friends of the Rochester Public Library – We are making connections with certain patrons of the library to form a Friends group. Suggested friends – Diane White, Mary Sue Crowley, Blythe Goupee Bates, Rosanne Johnson, Tim McDonald, Doreen Jones. Estimated cost to set up the group - \$500. The group is initially designed to function as a vehicle for grant writing, will incorporate as a private 501C3, engage 5 or 6 representatives and meet annually. First act of the group - Creation and review of by-laws.
 - d. Library of Art – Grant has been submitted to the Vermont Council on the Arts for \$4000 to purchase and loan artwork. Jeannette has asked several local artists to be part of a jury for developing inventory.
 - e. Kelly and Sandy signed warrants and Sandy was given a key to the library
5. Treasurer’s Report –
 - a. Jeannette requests an additional column in the Budget Status Report for the current month’s charges. It would be helpful for tracking current expenditures. Barbara will look into this and report back.
 - b. Venmo Account – A patron requested we use Venmo for receiving funds (a donation to the library for the cookbook project]. We actually have a Venmo account but need to activate it and become more familiar with the transaction process. Jeannette will follow through.
6. Librarian’s Report –
 - a. The End of the Book sale! – Leftover books from the June sale will be boxed up and taken away. Sandy will ask Larry about hauling them art. We sold the book sale shelving unit to Sandy for \$200 and that also still needs to be removed.

- b. COVID– Jeannette recommends we continue the “by appointment only” format until the end of the summer. Upcoming June programs will be held outside and we will continue to host events outside when weather permits. Josh Landis has inquired about using the library for a talk on Middle East affairs. Jeannette will approach the Federated Church to seek an alternative venue. Otherwise, no events are scheduled for July. We have two requests for programs in August being 1) Sue Ribaldo and the Valley Singers on August 10th and 2) Robin Lloyd will sponsor a public memorial reading of poet Phyllis Larabe during the third week of August.

Kelly Kelly motions we allow outside groups to utilize the library, with due adherence to current COVID restrictions, free of charge. Tony seconded and unanimously approved.

- c. The Vermont Department of Library has received federal funds to support public libraries. Grans applications are open for three weeks in July and we could stand to gain \$2100. Kelly motions we submit the grant and earmark funds for improved audio visual systems. Jeannette will follow through with Robert Meagher for advice.

- 7. Cookbook Fundraiser – The cookbook is happening! Robin Long has been instrumental in formatting pages and we have more than 120 pages with the rest shortly to follow. We have sold enough advertising to cover the cost of printing (Spaulding Press in Bethel). Thus, sales of the book will largely be profit. We are working on the illustrations and designing the exterior covers, and organizational pages – title page, credits, index of contributors, chapter headings and introductions, etc. We expect to have the book available for sale at a booth at the Harvest Fair in September.

8. Action Items –

Tony will continue asking the board to move on repairs to the building.
Jeannette will follow through with Buddy Comes about painting the ceiling.

Barbara will follow through on updating the Budget Status Report to include an additional column.

Sandy will ask Larry Plesent about removing the unwanted books and the bookcase upstairs.

Jeannette will contact the Federated Church for the Josh Landis event.

Friends Group – what’s next?

Venmo – activate account

VT Dept Libraries Grant - Jeannette follow through and engage Robert Meagher for advice on improved AV systems.