

**ABBOTT MEMORIAL LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
September 16, 2019 Meeting**

The meeting began at 7:06 PM.

Present: Anne Bower, Betsy Rhodes, Jean Souter, and Tina Clifford

Absent: Tessa Westbrook, Nancy Merrill, and Cory Smith, Librarian

The agenda was reviewed and adopted. The minutes from August were approved.

REPORTS

Librarian: There is no report since Cory is still out on medical leave. She recently came in for a couple of hours in the morning.

Building and Grounds: The radon levels in the basement are good.

Local carpenter, John Syme, has still not come to repair the basement window sill and frame.

Betsy will call him again. If no response, she will call other local carpenters.

We are on the "to do" list for John Barnes. He has reassured Betsy that fixing the crumbling porch wall will be done this fall.

Betsy has not heard from Ron Waters regarding the paint for the Abbott lettering and the proper sealant for the basement wall.

Betsy and Cory will form a plan for grading the dirt level away from the back door, and then a group of us will help when we hear back from them.

Jane Metcalf is away but will talk to Betsy about garden reimbursement money when she returns from her trip.

Betsy spoke to Steve Thomas about the map in the attic. It has some value, so he suggested putting it in an antiques consignment shop. The religious materials have little value. Betsy will send them back to their origins sometime this winter.

Betsy hung the watercolor painting of the library in the adult book room.

Betsy tried to fix the leaky toilet. After research, she found out it needed a new costly part and a plumber. After a discussion, the board approved the purchase of a new toilet with a cap of \$250 plus installation. The sink plug also needs to be repaired. She will contact Ottauquechee Plumbing.

Treasurer: Nancy was absent. All bills have been paid up to date.

Development: Tessa was absent.

Community Outreach: Tina heard back from Mike Leonard regarding his movie, One Town at a Time, about Vermont's 251 club. He's willing to show it in Pomfret, but needs proper space. He also gave specific dates in late October and early November when he is available. Anne will look into possible venues.

Chair: Anne reported that Jim Rose is willing to replace the pipe railing going down to the basement so we are compliant with insurance regulations.

Anne suggested that we use the leftover cresting tiles to form a border on the path between our property and Artistree. We thought this was an idea worth trying and will work on it the same day we set aside for grading the dirt level away from the back door.

OLD BUSINESS

Preservation Trust of Vermont retreat: After a discussion, we decided that it would be worthwhile for one or more of us to attend this event on October 7th and 8th. Anne volunteered to go and the board approved the cost of \$125 plus mileage.

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation in October: Laura Foley, who has a new book being published, will read some of her poems and hold a discussion on Sunday, October 6th at 3:30 at the library. Refreshments will be provided by the board. Anne will do the publicity and JoAnn will make the sign. Anne will make flyers for board members to post around the area.

This led to a discussion about purchasing 6 new folding chairs to replace 6 wooden rickety ones. The board approved the purchase at \$19.99 each. Anne will get them at BJ's.

Vermont Reads: We had a preliminary discussion on the Vermont Reads Program sponsored by The Vermont Humanities Council. The 2019/2020 book is The Hate U Give. It's probably most appropriate for high school students and older. Tina will contact the school to see if they are interested or planning a program around it. We wondered about the Norman Williams Library also. We will decide at the October meeting whether to go further and write a grant to participate either in the spring or next fall.

From Trustees Calendar: Anne reminded the board to review and purge pertinent library records.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM

The next Board of Trustees Meeting will take place at 7 PM at the library on Monday, October 21, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Souter