

**ABBOTT MEMORIAL LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
September 20, 2021**

The September 20, 2021 meeting took place in person at the Abbott Memorial Library.

The meeting began at 7:10 PM.

Present: Anne Bower, Betsy Rhodes, Jean Souter, Mary Worrell, and Cory Smith, Librarian.

Absent: Susan Burgess and Tina Clifford

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

REPORTS

Librarian: Cory locked in the heating oil price for one year from Dead River recently, after monitoring its price all summer.

JoAnn Webb officially retired from the library as of August 28th, but has offered to sub during the transition period of bringing Sue Heston on board. She asked not to have a party but will be recognized in other ways for her 20 years of service. The trustees approved a pay raise retro to September 1st for Sue, our new assistant librarian.

Cory reported that we will probably need to buy a new copier this fiscal year, and possibly two computers.

She has been going through the children's room, removing and replacing books as needed.

She noted that a few new families have come in over the summer.

The *Vermont Reads* books are in, ready to be loaned to the public. The title is *We Contain Multitudes*, by Sarah Henstra. It's a novel written in letter form between two teenage boys.

Cory is thinking about what can be done for Halloween this year, probably offering an outside activity and take home craft, similar to what she did last year. She will be taking the last two weeks of October as her vacation time.

Building and Grounds: Betsy reported that the radon level is fine.

There is no news from the town regarding the parking lot or guard rail installation.

(The basement talk and John Barnes is written under old business.)

Treasurer: Susan was unable to attend the meeting. The monthly financials will be emailed to us.

Development: Mary wrote a draft annual appeal letter and a welcome letter to new residents and will email them to us this week. She asked that we review both and comment for revisions. She spoke to Becky Fielder about obtaining an updated town list. Becky suggested we wait until later in October to review the changes on the list for our annual appeal letter.

Community Outreach: Tina was out of town.

Chair: Anne led a brief discussion about the radon levels set by the state.

The first meeting of the Long Range Planning Committee was held on August 30th.

OLD BUSINESS

Poetry Reading: Poets Anne Bower and Pam Ahlen will read from their collaborative chapbook of poem/letters *Getting it Down on Paper, Shaping a Friendship* on Sunday afternoon, October 3rd at 3 pm outdoors at the Abbott library. If it rains, it will be held indoors, masks required. Anne and Cory will do the publicity.

Vermont Reads: It was noted under the Librarian's report that the books are in. After a discussion of the content and the possible discomfort some patrons may have with the book, we decided to put off the penpal idea between seniors and HS students. Anne suggested we might want to hold a discussion of the book in the spring which she is willing to moderate. She will contact Susan Piccoli from the high school to get her thoughts.

Foundation work: Betsy sent the board members a detailed letter explaining her recent conversation with John Barnes regarding the work that he was scheduled to do this fall along with extra work dealing with the crumbling sealant in the basement. Because of the wet summer and too many commitments, John will have to delay the fall work until spring. He is willing to work on the crumbling wall issue at an additional expense. After a discussion of the work he would need to do, including repairing, waterproofing, and regrading the back so the land slopes away from the building, the board approved additional money, up to \$5000 to do the extra work.

NEW BUSINESS

Gift: Joanna Long offered to have one of our paintings restored from an art restorer from Middlebury with whom she had a very positive experience. We appreciate her offer and Betsy will ask her if she has a preference of a painting.

From Trustees Calendar: Review and purge library records

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

The next Board of Trustees Meeting will take place at 7 PM on Monday, October 18, 2021 at the library.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Souter