

**Abbott Memorial Library
Board of Trustees Minutes
Monday, August 17, 2006, 7pm**

The August 17 meeting took place in-person at Abbott Memorial Library and began at 6:59pm. A recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

Present: Cory Smith, Heather Durkel, Jocelyn Randles, Jim Robinson, Jan Salstrom, Katie Brickner

Absent: Mary Worrell

The August agenda was approved.

The June meeting minutes were approved.

Reports _____

Librarian: *Cory Smith*

- Following a break for summer, the Abbott Book Club will start again on October 6 at 6pm. The group will discuss the nonfiction book *Confederates in the Attic* by Tony Horwitz.
- In June and July, four knitters and crafters joined the Fiber & Craft Group. The next meet up will occur on Tuesday, August 18, from 4:30-6pm.
- Twenty-four children signed up for the Summer Reading Program. The theme, "Unearth a Story," inspired projects including a collaborative tabletop dinosaur mural, a rock dig, a flag making craft, and white oil pastel watercolor resist. All have been very popular.
- A Moth-style storytelling event is scheduled for Friday, August 28 at 7pm. The theme is "Turning Points–Stories of pivotal moments, reinvention, unexpected events." We need to provide snacks and drinks. Betsy Rhodes will help with the set up/take down.
- Vermont Humanities speaker Michele Pagan will present a program called *Vermont Sampler Stories* on Saturday, September 12 at 4pm at the Pomfret Town Office. We're hoping to make this program available on Zoom as well and will need help operating the town's equipment.
- Cory and Heather are planning a storywalk on the library grounds and will follow up with details.
- Artistree's Artfest will be on October 3, 11am-3pm, and the library will be open from 10am-2pm(ish). Two librarians will be on the schedule that day. We'll have several

parking spaces on the north end of Library Street, below Artistree's exit, for library patrons. Alan and Kris Graham might run a quill/ink/paper and chalk/slate craft on the library grounds. We will also offer a "tea party," including drinks, cookies, and tea sandwiches. The snacks will be complimentary with suggested donation. We will need volunteers.

- The Silver Circus has been reserved to perform a family program at the Pomfret Town Hall on Saturday, November 7 at 4pm.

Treasurer:

- Mary provided financial documents. Jocelyn asked about the increase in the insurance rate, and Mary and Cory will review last year's figures.

Development: *Jan*

- Jan has compiled a list of residents and businesses in preparation for the annual appeal. She will print a hardcopy of the list for all trustees to review before the September meeting. Jan will also draft a letter for the trustees to review. The letter should be ready for mailing by mid-November.

Outreach: *Heather*

- Cory covered many of the topics already, but Heather and Cory will meet to discuss events that need support, advertisement, etc.
- The Storywalk is the next big event that will need help. Jocelyn suggested that Cynthia Hewitt should be in the loop so she can mention it in her column.

Buildings and Grounds: *Jim*

- Cory will replace the dehumidifier hose in the basement.
- Jim will coordinate with Dead River to service the furnace, ideally scheduling a visit for first thing on a Tuesday or Thursday. The Town has an account with Dead River, but Jim should clarify how the bill will be delivered.

Chair: *Jocelyn*

- No new updates at this time.

Old Business _____

- To achieve compliance with the open meeting law, Cory has updated the language on the website. Tonight's meeting is being recorded and will be posted on the website.
- Mary helped Jocelyn manage the chimney repair, everything is arranged, and the contractor will find time for us in his schedule.
- We will need to get an update from Mary about the site survey at the September meeting.
- The Thomas Ware Paintings need to be reappraised. L.T. Hall Appraisals, in Plainfield, NH did the last appraisal in 2002. Katie will ask Matt Powers if he can recommend an appraiser. If he doesn't have one, she will look into other options.
- Jocelyn and Mary went to a presentation in Bethel about AI Data Centers to decide whether it would be appropriate to bring the program to Pomfret. They decided it wouldn't suit our audience so we will pass.
- Cory will look into the specs for the Town Hall in preparation for the Silver Circus, and will coordinate with the performer about how to set up the space.
- We discussed goals for starting a friends group, and the most important is to be able to accept donations that are not checks. Beyond fundraising, awareness and community building are important. Jocelyn suggested having a sub-committee meet in late September or early October to talk about next steps.

Action Items

- Cory and Heather will meet to discuss details for the Storywalk.
- For The Moth, Jocelyn will bring cheese straws and a bottle of wine, Heather will bring cookies, and Jan will bring seltzer. If Katie is in town, she will bring fruit or veggies. Attendance tends to be approximately 20-25 people. Mark is planning to post on the Pomfret and Barnard listservs, Cynthia will write about it in The Standard, and there are fliers around town.
- Heather offered to make a flier for *Vermont Sampler Stories*. Cory will provide the information. Heather also asked about capacity for the event. Cory will talk with Becky about spacing.
- Mary and Cory will meet to discuss insurance rates.
- Jan will print a hardcopy of the annual appeal mailing list for all trustees to review before the September meeting. She will also draft a letter for the trustees to review.
- Cory will replace the dehumidifier hose in the basement.
- Jim will coordinate with Dead River to service the furnace.
- Katie will ask Matt Powers if he can recommend an appraiser. If he doesn't have one, she will look into other options.
- Cory will look into the specs for the Town Hall in preparation for the Silver Circus, and will coordinate with the performer about how to set up the space.

The next meeting will be held at the library and on Zoom on September 21, 2026, at 7pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47.

Respectfully submitted by Katie Brickner.