

ILSLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, May 11, 2020
ELECTRONIC MEETING VIA ZOOM PLATFORM

MINUTES – DRAFT

Board decisions are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Present

Board members: Joe McVeigh, President, Catherine Nichols, Secretary, Andy Hooper, Treasurer, John Freidin, Amy Mincher, Library Director: Dana Hart

Public: Peggy Rush and Rebekah Irwin

CONFIRMATION OF ADHERENCE TO VERMONT PUBLIC MEETING LAW

President Joe McVeigh confirmed that the meeting, which was held electronically, conformed to the temporary amendments to Vermont Open Meeting Law and was duly authorized to be held electronically pursuant to Addendum 6 to Executive Order 01-20 and Act 92. He further indicated how public notice had been given and described to the public how they could participate.

CALL TO ORDER

See Board Packet <Board Packet 5.11.2020.pdf> for agenda and accompanying documents.

President Joe McVeigh called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board approved the minutes of the regular meeting of April 13, 2020. Catherine asked for some minor edits be made. They were approved as amended.

The Board also approved the minutes of the special meeting held on February 24, 2020.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Peggy Rush noted that she misses the library.

REVIEW OF VERMONT LAW OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Joe led the board in a discussion of the Vermont Law of Public Libraries. Topics discussed included role of trustees in governance of municipal libraries, policies vs. bylaws, policies the library should have in place. The Ilesley currently does not have a policy on intellectual freedom. The library abides by the town's policies on personnel and about unions. There was discussion about having a long range plan. Amy noted that it would be good to have a long range plan in place so that when we do a strategic plan, it would feed into that. John mentioned that they had developed something like a long range plan a few years ago while the trustees were working with Barbara Doyle-Wilch. Joe mentioned that we may look at this at our next board retreat. The Vermont Law of Public Libraries can be found on the Vermont Department of Libraries website.

LETTER RE: RENOVATION/EXPANSION

The board discussed a letter written by President Joe McVeigh to the chair of the Select Board outlining the Trustees' decision to pause in the renovation/expansion efforts in light of the health

and economic issues caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The board approved the letter in general, but encouraged Dana, Joe, and John to work on some minor word choices.

POTENTIAL OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT

The board reviewed director Dana Hart's memo outlining her proposal to teach a winter term course at Middlebury College in January 2021. The board asked questions about the course and made positive comments. The board unanimously showed support for Dana to teach a J-term course that would support town/college/library relationships.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Library Director Dana Hart directed board members to her written report, highlighting the following areas: East Middlebury library position, elevator testing at the Ilsley, patron outreach team has learned that people are enjoying movies on Kanopy, ebooks and audiobooks, and there have been requests for more digital programming children.

REOPENING THE LIBRARY

Library Director Dana Hart directed board members to the 3rd draft of her written proposal of May 7, 2020 titled A Phased Approach to Reopening Ilsley Public Library. Board members asked technical questions about how some of the procedures would be carried out. John asked about how the library could provide access to computers for patrons earlier than currently slated. Dana spoke about options and levels of safety, and she will consider possible ways to do it. Rebekah Irwin shared information about what the college is doing related to computers in the library. They are not having them in the library at all for public use because they are too high-touch and too difficult to clean.

POTENTIAL BOARD RETREAT

The board had previously set aside time on Saturday, May 16th for a board retreat. The board discussed to meet on Tuesday, May 26th at 2pm instead.

BOARD COMMENTS AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

President Joe McVeigh adjourned the meeting at 3:25 pm.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will take place on Monday, June 8th at 2:00 pm. via electronic meeting.

Minutes taken and submitted by Amy Mincher.