

**Stowe Free Library
Board of Trustees Minutes
November 2, 2023**

Present: K.Spear, A.Colvato, K.Kaufman, C.Maison-Kastner, S.Gaines, S.Calvo (zoom), L.Polk, (Director)

Absent: B.Mullin

Call to order: 8:18 am

Minutes: stand as read

Treasurer's Report: Copley Fund: \$26,647.99, Operating Account: \$33,010.60, Endowment, \$1,177,202.67

Director's Report: Halloween festivities were well received. There was a large crowd for the lighting on Oct. 13th. Circulation is up in most areas, in particular the juvenile collection. The librarians need to start purchasing more online collections to keep up. (ebooks, audio books, kindle) New patrons are up 100 in the first 4-months of Loren's directorship. Molly has a new Instagram page. The library needs a bigger social media presence. Loren has finished the temporary website. It is live as of Nov. 2nd. The librarians are preparing to swap the computer room to the front of library. Working with IT person to rewire computers.

Director's Report: Starting to plan the holidays with Stowe Vibrancy. Friday night, Dec. during the Old-Fashioned Christmas weekend. After the lantern walk the library will do a lighting reveal and Christmas carols. Saturday, Dec. there will be a Hygge Event centered around coziness, something quiet and relaxing.

Facilities Report: Discussion about "shushing" in libraries. There was a complaint on google about noise level at the library and Loren has purchased a decibel meter to measure different areas for sound level.

Old Business: At the December December 7th meeting the Board will reevaluate how Thursday mornings are working. It is difficult for staff members to join us on Thursdays as they don't come to work until 9 am.

New Business: A Board retreat will be scheduled for a Saturday in November or December.

Budget Presentation: first 2 months Loren's been here—who pays for what and how it's decided. Cindy had separate budgets – town and friends. Loren consolidated both budgets to see total of what we have and where it comes from. Base budget (last 2 years) \$523,337 this year \$566,457. Expanded budget includes Friends. Bond for

school (2025) if that comes out the select board will look for a lean budget. Union negotiations starting (employees) contract runs out June 30th. (IEVW)

Small budget changes: Need to show offsets with costs, increase in revenue, etc. Increasing public demand and footprint. The Board is considering an Adopt an Author program to help offset collection costs.

Next Meeting: December 7th, 2023

Adjournment: 9:19 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kim Kaufman