

**Stowe Free Library
Board of Trustees Minutes
February 8th, 2024**

Present: K.Spear, S.Gaines, S.Calvo, K.Kaufman, B.Mullin (zoom), L.Polk (Director)

Absent: C. Maison Kastner, A. Colvato,

Call to Order: 8:02 am

Treasurer's Report: Copley Fund: \$30,245.59. Operating Account: \$33,375.61. Endowment: \$1,215,694.04. Discussion about putting some funds in ETF's. Mutual funds have high cost and taxable transactions during the year. ETFs will save money.

Director's Report: Staff retreat, based on 2 basic ideas: Company culture discussion, adding tangible aspects for all employees. Creating conscious culture—start with tangible physical aspects to create atmosphere. Cultivate, clarify the culture we're seeing. What works and what should be changed? For example, the staff room and shared office space. A new library configuration, summary of staff culture, goals and alignment with strategic plan will be ready by the Board Meeting in April/ May. The meeting room is now a "Collaborative Workspace." More people asking about utilizing the space. The new sign for the porch is in final stages. ARPA has issued grant money in the sum of 13 million dollars to be distributed to libraries in VT. The grant is funded through HUD so we would need to do environmental impact study in order to apply. There may be restrictions on whether municipal libraries can get funding. The Stowe Free Library has received a grant that will be announce by ALA. It is a collaboration with the Holocaust Museum and the ALA.

Friends' Report: There was a very good turnout for Charlie Nardozi. There was discussion about purchasing a better microphone set up and possibly a new projector. We are hoping the Friends will help us replace our old systems.

Facilities Report: See above.

Old Business: Two Board Members will be leaving in April. There is a need to start looking sooner than later as April is two months away.

New Business: None.

Rules of Conduct: Tabled.

Child Safety Policy: No changes.

Town Meeting Day Discussion: First Tuesday in March. (3/6/24)

Executive Session: 8:43am to 9:01am

Miscellaneous: The librarians are consider doing joint events at Copley in the large space at the facility. Speed-dating is still in the works.

Board Retreat: Mid to late May.

Next meeting: March 7th

Adjournment: Motion was made to adjourn. Motion passed. Adjourned at 9:15am

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Kaufman