Stowe Free Library
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
June 13th, 2024

Present: K.Spear, S. Calvo, S. Edwards, S. Gaines, A. Colvato, B.Mullin, L.Polk (Director); Joined by Brian Pelkey – representative from Morgan Stanley.

Absent: P. Lambert

Call to order: 8:05am

Minutes: Stand as approved.

Treasurers Report: Endowment Account contains $1,235,437.62.

Director's Report: Not discussed.

Friends' Report: Not discussed.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Discussion of finances of the operating fund held at Union Bank and the library endowments held at Morgan Stanley. We were joined by special guest Brian Pelkey, an employee of Morgan Stanley who helps oversee our library endowments. We discussed restrictions associated with each account. The Union Bank library operating fund contains ~$28,000, of which ~$6,000 is slated for the next fiscal year, ~$2,000 is slated for unexpected operating needs, and $20,000 is slated for longer-term needs and could be earning higher interest. The board unanimously approved a motion to move $20,000 from the Union Bank operating fund to a "Library Trustees Discretionary Fund" at Morgan Stanley, with investment strategy overseen by the library treasurer. The goal of this fund is to prepare for long-term campaigns (e.g. capital projects) and to help solicit grants and matching donations. Brian Pelkey reported that over the last 10 years, the endowments have earned an annual ~7% return, which is lower than the market as a whole because 40% has been invested in bonds which have had poor returns. We discussed with Brian Pelkey, that because our endowments do not require a particular disbursement percent each year, he can explore with our treasurer other investment strategies to augment the current high-dividend investment strategy.

Policy Review: None

Trustee Officers: Unanimous election of K. Spear (chair), S.Gaines (vice-chair), Brian Mullin (Treaturer), S.Calvo (secretary) for a one year term each.

Next Meeting: September 12, 2024.

Adjournment: 9:58am