

GRAND ISLE FREE LIBRARY

Minutes, October 23, 2017

Trustees Present: Carolyn McCray, Kate O'Neill, Colleen Bushway, Diane Cota and Karen Allen
Trustees Absent: None

Others present: Grand Isle Librarian, Kathy Tulissi

Friends of the Library representatives Barb Capen, Char Kennedy, Debbie Bedrin, Gail Horne, Ellen Dorsch, Lucy Trombley, Bill Kennedy and Michael Inners

Grand Isle Planning Commissioners Shawn Mercy and Jeff Parizo

Grand Isle Selectboard members Adam White and AnnaMarie DeMars

South Hero Library Foundation representatives Peter Zamore and Sandy Gregg

South Hero Library Trustee Melissa Hood

Melissa Boutin (Grand Isle Town Clerk), Rachel Griggs (Selectboard secretary), Dwight Bullis, Leslie D. Desrosiers, Jim Hoag, Lucille Campbell, and Sue Moquin

The meeting opened at 6:00 pm.

- I. Friends of the Library. Several members of the Friends Group recently attended a South Hero Library Trustees meeting and Char Kennedy presented the results of that meeting. The main topic of discussion had been the possibility of Grand Isle and South Hero working together on a combined community library. The Friends Group summary of the major issues involved in such a collaboration was provided to the Grand Isle Board of Trustees.

Peter Zamore provided a bit of information about the South Hero Library Foundation which is a 501(c)(3) entity involved in the library fundraising. The estimated cost for the new library is \$1.5M with \$1.1M having already been raised. Construction is expected to begin in the Spring 2018 with completion by year end. Peter mentioned that there were several options for collaboration between the two towns ranging from an interdisciplinary partnership to an arrangement with yearly stipend for use.

Melissa Hood mentioned that the Grand Isle Trustees had met with the South Hero Trustees several years ago to initiate conversation about a combined community library but at that time South Hero had not determined their course of action. She expressed the South Hero Library Board's interest in continuing a discussion with the Grand Isle Library Board about partnering on a community library. South Hero has a location determined and conceptual plans for a new two-story library of approximately 5,200 square feet to be built on Route 2, next to the Health Center and just in front of the Fire Station which is currently under construction. The plan is for the general library space to be on the upper floor with a Children's Space and Community Room on the lower floor.

The discussion of a partnership included having a satellite library to be maintained in Grand Isle out of consideration for those with limited transportation and/or needing access to the Wi-Fi accessible through the library.

Sandy Gregg spoke of her conversations with local residents of both South Hero and Grand Isle and their interest in the two neighboring towns working together toward a common goal.

Karen raised her concern over a Trustees' recent conversation with Ken Kowalewitz of the South Hero Library Board, at which point he indicated that any partnership would result in Grand Isle having a minority interest in any partnership and South Hero retaining controlling interest. Sandy indicated that nothing had been determined as yet and that she would look into it.

Other aspects of the discussion included an abbreviated summary provided by Barb Capen of the recent survey taken by the Friends Group; Michael Inners' belief that a new library in South Hero would siphon off patrons from Grand Isle making it more difficult for Grand Isle to build a new library of its own in future; AnnaMarie DeMars expressed fear that loss of a local town library would result in Grand Isle becoming just an in-between town with folks passing through on their way north or south; Collen questioned the possible results if the library was no longer considered a municipal library, such as insurance and other benefits that currently come through the town. Sue Moquin suggested that the residents of Grand Isle be polled by a vote to determine what path the residents wanted to trustees to explore. The question was raised about input from the two selectboards and whether the South Hero selectboard was in favor of a combined community library option.

There was a brief discussion about the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library which is an example of a combined community library between Jericho and Underhill. Perhaps the structure of that partnership could provide a sample to work from should South Hero and Grand Isle decide to pursue such a strategy. It could become an Inter-Town Municipal Services District with each town paying a fee based on population and with a negotiated mutually agreed upon agreement to govern the partnership.

Michael Inners expressed an interest in hearing what, if any, possibilities were available for the town of Grand Isle to retain a local library in an effort to compare more concrete rather than vague options. Shawn Mercy replied that the Planning Commission was hoping to have more to report by the end of 2017 with regard to available options, schedule and square footage.

As a result of the discussions, it was decided that The South Hero trustees would look to provide answers about what South Hero could provide with regard to services/insurance from municipality vs. nonprofit in the open market. In addition, Michael will contact the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library to find out who provides their insurance.

- II. Secretary's Report: Copies of the Minutes from the August 14, 2017 meeting were available, allowing time for the trustees to review and comment. It was noted that the dollar amounts reflected in sections II and IV of the draft August minutes were slightly off; they will be corrected. Colleen moved to approve the Minutes with the two corrections; Kate seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- III. Treasurer's Report – Treasurer's Report was handed out and reviewed. There was a brief discussion about amount already expended under the office supplies/postage line item. Part of that is due to the cost of toner for the copier. It was suggested that the amount being charged for patrons to make black and white copies be raised from \$.10 to \$.15 to help offset this expense. The change will go into effect as of January 2018 with notice of the change being posted to allow for patrons to be informed prior to it taking effect. There was a question as to whether the balance on one of the line items was calculated correctly. Diane moved to accept the Treasurer's report as written with Colleen confirming the math; seconded by Kate. Motion carried.
- IV. Librarian's Report: Kathy presented her Librarian's Report which included information about the new Interlibrary loan system and the continued interest in joining the courier system should that be opened up to new members. The fees for Listen Up Vermont through the Green Mountain Library Consortium will be raised as of January 2019, doubling the fee for each checkout. A request was made to allow the library to be closed on Saturday, December 23rd for the holiday. There was no objection to that idea. Kathy also brought the trustees current with regard to the popularity of the audiobook collection, movie attendance, library weblog design and a recent local author event.

VI. New Business. In anticipation of greater discussions regarding the possibility of partnering with South Hero on a combined community library, the trustees will come up with a list of questions in an effort to determine the facts and make an informed decision.

VIII. Old Business. None discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 13th at which time the 2018/2019 budget will be discussed.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Allen, Secretary