

*Agency of Administration*

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| **State of Vermont** |  | |
| **Department of Libraries**  60 Washington Street |  |  |
| Barre, VT 05641 |  |  |

# VERMONT BOARD OF LIBRARIES MINUTES

**July 13, 2021**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Meeting conducted Virtually via Microsoft Teams & In-Person at Department of Libraries, 60 Washington Street, Barre**

**In Attendance:** Bruce Post (Chair), Deborah Granquist (Vice Chair), Tom Frank, Maxie Ewins, Linda Saarnijoki, Adriene Katz, Jason Broughton (Secretary)

**Others Present:** Cherie Yaeger (VTLIB), Janette Shaffer (VTLIB), Thomas McMurdo (VTLIB), April Shaw (VTLIB), Joshua Muse (VTLIB)

**Call to Order:** Chair Bruce Post called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

**Public to be Heard:**

No comments

Linda Saarnijoki asked about looking at draft meeting minutes from the previous meetings as it was not on the agenda. Bruce Post said that the minutes could be reviewed during this meeting. However, Linda felt the board needed more time to read through all minutes. The review of draft meeting minutes would be placed on the October agenda.

**State of Vermont Legislation:**

Jason Broughton went over legislation that passed in the Vermont State House this past legislative session. Jason talked about Act 66, which created the new Library Working Group. Jason stated that they are currently working on getting the names of all members who will be a part of this working group. He also went over the different sections of Act 66 that the working group will work on in reference to Vermont libraries. Maxie Ewins congratulated Jason and VTLIB staff for getting this working group created. Linda asked when the first meeting of the working group will take place. Jason reported that the first meeting needs to occur within 45 days after the bill was signed. The task for the first meeting will be to review the requirements of Act 66. Deborah Granquist thinks this is the perfect time to take on this task. Conversation continued with questions from the board in reference to this legislation.

**Discussion – Status Update on Public Libraries and COVID 19 impacts:**

Jason went over the Department of Libraries report. He discussed the ARPA funds issued through IMLS and how the Department is planning to distribute the $1.135 million through grants, book purchases and services for libraries. Tom McMurdo explained how the department calculated the amount of grant funds that are available for each public library in the state. The Department decided that no library would receive less than $2,000 and amounts were based on the poverty, unemployment and SNAP benefits of each library’s populations served. Bruce asked when the department planned to start getting the funds out to libraries, and Tom stated the first grant funds to public libraries would start in September/October. Adriene Katz asked how the service population was determined for each library. Tom and Josh Muse told the board these were based on the towns that gave full tax support to libraries. A nuanced discussion ensued about various aspects of using that metric.

Jason spoke about the legislative statute books that the department currently distributes to state and non-state entities. Legislation passed this year that will place fewer requirements on the department for keeping and distributing these books.

The department also requested and received an extra $500,000.00 to use for updating broadband equipment for FiberConnect libraries.

**Geographic Naming:**

The board talked about ways to improve the geographic naming process for new petitions and petitioners. Jason discussed the initial letter sent to petitioners and the information that the department and board need from petitioners for a successful naming process. Linda recommended that the department add to the initial letter a requirement that petitioners contact First Nation representatives before submitting their petition.

**Board Term Limits:**

The board and department staff discussed current board terms for each board member. The Department will verify with the Governor’s Office the term end dates for Adriene and James, as the Board of Libraries page on the Governor’s website does not match the appointment documents that Adriene and James received. The Department will also check with the Governor’s office for the terms for Tom Frank and Linda Saarnijoki as they have not received new appointment documents for their second term.

Deborah Granquist moved to adjourn the meeting. Linda Saarnijoki seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 12:05.