Library Board Meeting Minutes – August 25, 2025

6 pm called to order.

Present: Emily Gold, Patience Jenkins, Carol Shuey, Richard Williams, Bob Case, Helen Olshever, Julius Rosenwald

Not Present: Jane Conway, Kate Cooper (resigning), Jim Boutin (resigning).

Approval of Minutes from May 19 meeting: Motion to approve by Julius, Seconded by Carol.

Minutes approved unanimously.

Landscape and Garden updates: Kate Cooper would like us to choose either a Flowering Dogwood tree or a Redbud tree to plant at the library as a memorial to their daughter June. Julius will work on getting pricing from the nursery for a tree at least 6 feet in height, as well as asking advice on where to plant it, how to plant, etc. and also possibly see if the nursery would plant it. He'll bring the information back to the board.

By Laws and Policy update: Emily has been exploring and revising three possible areas where updates might be necessary: 1) art policy 2) Narcan policy 3) Removal of Board member policy. There were short discussions on each of these issues, with general consensus on changes – these will be written up and voted on at a later date.

Treasurer's Report: This was read aloud by Richard, with the overall message that the library is in good financial shape at this point. Fundraising was successful and slightly exceeded the desired target.

The library received the full amount for the Building and Grounds grant. Julius suggested that he and Richard meet with the Trust Company of Vermont in Manchester, exploring the idea of changing management of our account to them, rather than the Vermont Community Foundation. A motion was made by Carol and seconded by Helen to approve Richard and Julius having a conversation with the Trust Company of Vermont to explore the issue of using their services.

Director's Report – Emily gave a comprehensive report on her plans and vision for the next quarter and what programs and events took place in the first ¾ of this year. She has completed her fourth of four core classes for certification. Emily asked for approval to have a community event to paint the book drop (Board agreed), and she also discussed the possibility of hosting some community discussions on pertinent town issues at the library, in conjunction with Tara from Town Hall. She (Tara) asked if someone from the library would step up to co-host these discussions -it was agreed that when we had a date, hopefully someone will come forward to help out. Emily also requested help with some thank you notes to recent donors: Richard and Helen volunteered to help out with those. In addition, Emily requested that she NOT be the sole decider of which artists can display work at the library. Helen said she would be willing to work with her on that.

Fall Event: Patience and Emily and Kate worked on ideas for a fall event at the library. A discussion about whether or not this should be a fundraising event or just an Open House for the community took place, and the outcome seemed to be that a community open house was preferable, with food, original stories read by Pownal School students, possibly some music with the intention of bringing more people into the library and generate more interest. Patience and Emily will work out details and it will be held on October 18, in the early evening.

There was a request by Jim Boutin (not present at meeting) to bump up buying of new adult titles in the library. Emily assured us that she has been doing that in an ongoing way and has lists that she is working on to order. That will all be accomplished in this last quarter of the year.

New Lock and Security for the library: A motion was made by Julius and seconded by Patience to approve purchase and installation of a new electronic locking system (for the front door of the library) by Adam's Lock & Security in Bennington. This was passed unanimously.

There was a quick mention of whether there was something in particular we should do for the two resigning members of the Board, other than notes sent to them. It was suggested that when Kate has her twins we could present her with some form of a gift.

Motion to adjourn at 7:35 pm by Julius, seconded by Bob. Passed unanimously.