**VERMONT BOARD OF LIBRARIES**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**March 22, 2019**

**12:00 p.m.**

Department of Libraries

60 Washington Street

Community Room  
Barre, VT 05641

**Members present:** Bruce Post (Chair), Deborah Granquist (Vice Chair), Jason Broughton (Interim State Librarian, Secretary), Tom Frank, Maxie Ewins, Rebekah Irwin

**Others present:** Cherie Yaeger (Executive Assistant to the State Librarian), Fred Pond

Wendy Hysko & Hannah Tracy – Arrived after Executive Session

Department of Libraries Staff; Jennifer Johnson, Cass Mabbott, Vance Asselin, Vincent Livoti, April Shaw, Joy Worland.

**Call to Order:** Chair Bruce Post convened the Special Board of Libraries meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Bruce introduced Secretary of Administration, Susanne Young, and stated the reason for the meeting was to fulfill the Board of Libraries statutory requirement to consult with the Secretary of Administration regarding the appointment of State Librarian.

**Public to be Heard (Items not on Agenda):**

Bruce stated that he has received some communications from librarians, as well as seen discussions on the Listserv concerning the State Librarian position. Bruce first asked if any board members wanted to speak, no members wanted to speak at that time. Bruce asked if anyone in attendance wanted to speak to the issue a chance to weigh in on the status of the special meeting. Fred Pond, UVM librarian, stated he saw the conversations on the listservs and wanted to attend the meeting to observe.

**Department of Libraries Update, State Librarian Position:**

Bruce stated that after Scott Murphy submitted his resignation, Bruce called Secretary Young and told her the Board of Libraries was ready to fulfill its consulting role. Bruce then asked Secretary Young if she’d like to speak. Secretary Young thanked the board for having her attend this meeting. Secretary Young stated that she appreciated the boards support of Scott Murphy’s tenure as State Librarian.

Susanne gave a brief history of her experience with libraries, and working in the State Law library in Montpelier as a lawyer for the state. When the law library was removed from the Department of Libraries, Secretary Young was the Deputy Attorney General and she worked with Scott at that time. When Sec. Young became Secretary of Administration she didn’t realized until that time how deeply this impacted the department. Secretary Young said that Scott provided a vision for the library that brought the team together, in the departments new location and worked hard to build relationships with libraries and institution libraries, as well as encouraging community partnerships.

Sec. Young spoke on what she sees the person in this position working with, one of these is the continued work of the department toward the strategic goals of the Governor. These goals are to grow the economy, make Vermont affordable, and modernizing and making a more efficient government.

Since becoming the Secretary of Administration, Secretary Young, has learned how great libraries are for communities, and she has been very happy with what both the department and public libraries are doing to grow. Susanne spoke on how Jason Broughton, Interim State Librarian, has picked up where Scott left off and has continued to grow the Departments community partnerships.

The Board then decided to go into executive session. Josh Fitzhugh motioned to move that the board go into executive session to discuss the recommendation for the Secretary of Administration for the leadership of the State Library. Maxie seconded the motion. Deborah Granquist asked if anyone in attendance had anything further to add before the board went into executive session. Bruce asked all in attendance if there were further comments, to which Joy Worland thanked Bruce for his previous comments in support of the Department of Libraries staff. Bruce asked for a vote to go into executive session. Bruce called the vote, all in favor say aye, opposed, the ayes have it unanimously and the committee will move into executive session.

Board back in Session at 1:24.

Wendy Hysko and Hannah Tracy from Brownell Library, in Essex Junction, were now in attendance. Due to road conditions of the interstate they were stuck in traffic for the first part of the meeting.

Bruce invited Wendy and Hannah to speak. Wendy has been working in Vermont libraries for 10 years and finds during this time that the Department is not accomplishing things, there is to much think about how things should or could be done, too much foot-dragging on programs (such as an audio/e-book program), and she feels that the State library does not lead libraries in Vermont. Wendy stated that since the department wouldn’t work to get an e-book/audio book system set up for libraries, GMLC did this on their own and they offered the first service to Vermont libraries.

Wendy believes that the Department of Libraries needs to have vision to move forward, for example the standards are still from 1986. Wendy does not want the department to waste tax payer money on programs that are not beneficial to Vermont libraries.

Josh Fitzhugh thanked Wendy for speaking, and Bruce thanked Wendy and mentioned that at the last Board of Libraries meeting in January that Cindy, VLA President, was in attendance. At that time the board, Cindy, and Jason Broughton made a plan to have the board meeting in March be a time for the board, VLA, and VTLIB get together and talk about what work is done at all three of these levels, and how all three can work together moving forward – starting with talking about library standards.

Bruce mentioned that Cindy was supposed to notify VLA members of this discussion at the upcoming BOL meeting in March.

**Adjournment:** Tom Frank made a motion to adjourn, Maxie seconded. All members in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 1:34 p.m.