

Johnson Public Library
P.O. Box 601
Johnson, VT 05656

Minutes for the March 27, 2024 Board of Trustees Meeting

Present: Jessica Bickford, Kelly Vandorn, Jeanne Engel, Stacey Waterman, Jasmine Yuris

Absent: Sabrina Rossi

1. Kelly called the meeting to order at 6:07pm
2. **Adjustments/Additions to the Agenda:** Jessica reminded the board that the trustee meeting following town meeting day is typically when we make annual appointments. Jessica made a motion to leave the positions as they are, Stacey seconded, the motion passed.

(Kelly Vandorn, Chair; Jasmine Yuris, Vice Chair; Jessica Bickford, Facilities; Stacey Waterman, Treasurer; Sabrina Rossi, Secretary)

3. **Approving/Adjusting Minutes:** Jessica made a motion to approve the Feb 7th Minutes and Stacey seconded, all agreed. For the February 29th minutes, here was one change on the second page, where Brian R should be changed to Brian V. Jasmine made a motion to accept the February 29th meeting minutes with that minor change, and Jessica seconded, and it passed unanimously.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** There was no report from the Treasurer this month, other than Stacey stating that she will ask Rosemary for a year to date to review for next month's agenda.
5. **Librarian's Report:** Jeanne successfully submitted the application for the US Treasury Capital Projects Grant through the Vermont Department of Libraries on March 12th. Tom Galinat was more than supportive in assisting it all - there were lots of details that needed to be included from the town. Now the board waits until late Spring/early Summer for the results.
There will be a School Board meeting April 9th, and the Johnson Public Library is on the agenda to discuss the LNSU plot of land adjacent to the school's driveway and Legion Field, where the dirt parking lot is now, as a possible placement of the Library. Kelly will ask Duncan to attend as a member of the select board.
On Thursday, April 4th at 8:10, Stacey, Jessica, and Kelly will meet to measure the area in preparation for the School Board discussion.
Ron Rodjenski informed Jeanne that FEMA has denied financial assistance with our temporary space. VT Leagues of Cities and towns will give us the difference of what we

pay for heat/water/sewer typically at the Library Street location, but there will be a gap in expenses. The most expensive bill in the new location will be heat. There is a two part Vermont Humanities Council grant being offered to Johnson Public Library, with funding to be used by February 2025. \$15,000 would be from the National Endowment for the Humanities (staff time spent cleaning up after the disaster, conserving or replacing humanities collections (either your own or other organizations), and restarting public humanities programs delayed or canceled due to the disaster) and \$10,000 from the Vermont Humanities Council, privately funded (staff time spent cleaning up after the disaster, conserving or replacing humanities collections (either your own or other organizations), restarting public humanities programs delayed or canceled due to the disaster, Providing flood recovery support to your community, your members, or other cultural organizations, Building or landscape repairs, External mitigation or clean-up contractors, Equipment replacement, Replacing lost revenue due to canceled programs). Consideration was discussed for realistic use and management of these grants. Organizing a program similar to Morristown Free University is a high priority, as well as filling in utilities financial gaps. Jeanne emailed Kendra from the Morrisville Library about their grant size and the scope of work associated with their recent MVU program. Jasmine will reach out to River Arts about collaborating on our version of Free University. Jessica mentioned that it may behoove Jeanne and the Board to consider hiring a temporary position, specifically for managing all of the grant money coming in. Randall Szott was mentioned as a possibility, to pay him for his time with part of the grant funding. Jeanne will reach out to Randall about hiring him as needed to process the influx of grants. Jessica moved to accept Jeanne's report, Kelly seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

6. **Facilities Update:** The Town of Johnson continues to wait for the Historical Trust to sign off on the renovations to a historical building. The application has been submitted to the state Historical Preservation Officer on March 5th, and we haven't heard back or gotten approval for FEMA repairs because of it. Jessica will make a phone call in a few days if we continue to not hear anything.
7. **Historic Tables and Chairs Repair:** Jasmine will email the carpenters who gave her a quote for refinishing the table and chairs and let them know we are pausing on the project, considering the potential move across town. She also mentioned that the board should consider reviewing the process for making public requests for bids from tradespeople. Clearly defining what we want from a bid would make the process smoother, rather than receiving a slew of bids that are non comparable in scope.
8. **Review of Intellectual Freedom and Materials Selection Policy:** The Senate just put a bill on the floor to discuss book banning and intellectual freedom, which might result in a state policy. This discussion will be tabled until the Senate comes to a decision.
9. **By-Laws:** The board reviewed the updated bylaws. Jasmine moved to adopt the updated bylaws, Jessica seconded, and the board approved them unanimously.

10. **Grant/Moving Library Update:** Messier gave an estimate for \$600,000 to move the Library building from Library street to Legion Field. VTRANS gave the green light to use the Pearl Street Bridge.
11. **Unfinished Business:** None
12. Jessica made a motion to adjourn at 7:45pm, Stacey seconded, and the motion passed.

The next Library Board of Trustee Meeting will be Tuesday, April 9 at 5:00 pm in the Masonic Temple Basement.