



Vermont Library Association
Thursday, July 15, 2021
10am
via zoom

Minutes

Attendance

Voting Members present:

- Michael Roy, President
- Kelly McCagg - Vice President
- Bridget Stone-Alliard, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee
- Dana Hart, Public Libraries Section President
- Lisa Milchman, Treasurer
- Laura Haines, College and Special Libraries Section President .
- Barbara Ball, Secretary

Non Voting Members present:

- Jason Broughton, VTLIB representative

Meeting called to order at 10:02AM.

1. Approval of [May 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes](#) and May 25, 2021 [Meeting Minutes](#)
2. Introductions and [Confirming Membership of Board](#)
 - a. Attendees introduced themselves with their roles, what they've been working on in their VLA roles and what they hope to accomplish this year.
 - b. Discussion that we need to get in the habit of maintaining a spreadsheet of board members. Mike asked if the VLA has a nominating committee. This would maintain the membership of working groups and recruit new people to join. Kelly stated that there is already something in the VLA bylaws re a nominating committee and who should be on it.
*(From the [VLA website](#): The **Nominations and Elections Committee** shall be composed of the Vice-President/President-Elect who shall serve as chair, the President, and one member representing each Section of the Association. It shall operate as specified under the article on elections.)*
3. Budget report
 - a. We currently don't have a budget. Right now we have about \$20,000 in checking and \$10,000 in a CD for the John Swan Initiative. Finances are stable. Lisa is working with Susan Larson re the budget and also re membership and the level of membership that are also NELA members. Lisa is looking to figure out the best way forward to create a budget. Perhaps this could be a topic at the Board Retreat.
4. Report from State Librarian can be found [here](#)



5. Old Business

a. N/A

6. New Business

a. Proposal for Written Reports from Committees

- i. Mike proposed that, rather than committees and working groups reporting verbally at each meeting, instead, a few weeks before the meeting, each group could write and submit a blurb on what they've been doing. (A reminder email would be sent out re this with the meeting agenda.) Meeting participants can then review written submissions ahead of the meeting. Members were in favor of this.

b. Board Retreat in September

- i. Discussion that the meeting would be on our usual day/time (the 3rd Thursday of the month at 10AM), but expand the time slot and maybe have a 3-hour retreat. Board agreed to an in-person retreat. Ideally outside and maybe with a zoom component for those who can't travel. Mike will get the zip codes of attendees to try and find a spot equidistant from where attendees are coming from. Retreat will take place on Thursday, September 16th 10AM.

c. Staffing for Vermont Library Study Group

- i. Kelly McCagg agreed to serve as the Public Libraries rep.
- ii. Two reps from College and University Libraries - Laura will put out a call to membership to find interested academic librarians..
- iii. One public library trustee, to be appointed by President of the Friends and Trustees Section of the Vermont Library Association (Adriene Katz)
 1. We need to get this together in the next 2-3 weeks hopefully. But it can wait until September if needed.
 2. A question was asked on what the duties of participation will be. What is the time commitment? Is there a central location where we can find out what the duties will be? It's on the VT legislature website. Jason will share the [link](#).
 3. Jason clarified that for each of the non-public library working group participants, the goal is to examine how VT public libraries interface with your libraries. This is an opportunity for school and academic libraries to talk about their needs as they relate to public library services. "In working with Vermont public libraries, it would be nice if we had..."

d. Ideas for Priorities for the Coming Year

- i. Finances and creating a relationship with a firm that could do bill paying, auditing, and accounting for us.
- ii. Work with VT-LIB. Why does Vermont have 3 library associations? We need to have conversations with VSLA and VCAL. How to work more closely together or even join forces?
- iii. Continuing and building on the antiracist work we've been doing.
- iv. Strategic Plan - Tracking it and using it as a source of ideas.
- v. Planning the annual conference.



- vi. Thinking about the nomination process.
- vii. Build an "operators manual" for VLA. Something to start from.
- viii. Kelly had the idea of conducting "listening tours." Go to the different counties in Vermont and talk with public, special and academic librarians. Find out what their wishes and concerns are.
- ix. What would they like to see done on the state level in the next few years? Use this as an opportunity to let them know what services VLA can offer and to promote membership.
- x. Updating state standards for libraries. The current standards are from 1989.(Jason mentioned that the working group is the launching pad to update these standards. The working group recommendation document will be the roadmap to open up and quickly change the standards.
- xi. Re-energize the Friends and Trustees group.

Folks should look at this list and think about what you're hoping for. In September, we can come up with a plan for the year of goals and priorities.

- e. Application to [Lawson Sunshine Fund](#): Who would like to pursue this? Deadline is Friday August 31
 - i. Bridget agreed to work on the application. We can also provide help, feedback and support.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:14am.