

New Hampshire Library Trustees Association- FINAL

Board of Directors Meeting - in person, NH State Library, Concord

Tuesday January 4, 2023, 10 am.

Attending: Marcia McLaughlin, Anne Chant, Katrinka Pellecchia, Mark Branoff, Kathryn Parenti, Tammy Hooker, Conrad Moses, Renee Mallett, Rosemary D'Arcy, Deb Caplan, Deb Hoadley (NHLA VP), Michael York (NH State Librarian)

Absent: Connie Kirwin

Marcia called the meeting to order at 10:15 am.

Minutes: Three corrections - Marcia was misspelled, trains changed to training in the first paragraph, 6 applicants changed to 5. Deb C. moved to accept the minutes as amended; Katrinka seconded. All in favor - PASSED.

Treasurer's Report: Monthly report for December was reviewed. Marcia inquired if Mark had paid to attend the NHMA conference with NHLTA funds; if so, it should be listed separately for transparency. He did provide some sponsor leads after attending the conference. Conrad inquired about the scholarship recipients. They were Stacey Desrosiers of Goffstown Public Library and Laura Abrahamsen of GH Bixby Municipal Library. Marcia stated the names should be noted in next month's report. Mark said there were five exceptional candidates and they were in the process of awarding one additional scholarship and they would be discussing the award at the next meeting.

Conrad moved to accept the December treasurer's report; Anne seconded. All were in favor, none opposed. PASSED.

State Library: Michael York stated the legislature was now in session and the inauguration was on January 5. He has submitted the budget to the governor; 43 agencies make their presentations to the governor's staff. There were no questions regarding the presentation. The legislature discusses the budget until the end of June and then sends the budget to the governor. They are asking for funds for an extensive architectural study of the State Library building and are looking to move most of the collections to Archives, which is part of the legislative branch, in order to use the building more as a public building. The state library should receive a good amount of federal funds and they normally use them for the transportation system: staff for statewide operations, vehicles, technology, etc. He noted they have posted the position of assistant state librarian and they will begin interviewing in mid-January.

NHLA: Deb Hoadley, NHLA Vice President, introduced herself as the Moultonborough Public Library director and the NHLA conference co-chair. They are gearing up for the May 4-5, 2023 conference at Mills Falls, NH. She's also well versed in strategic planning. The NHLA December meeting was mostly a transitioning meeting. They are beginning to meet with a lobbyist as well. Renee asked if the NHLTA needed a lobbyist; Marcia replied we don't at this point. Mark noted as a 501.C.3 organization, there are a lot of restrictions with regard to lobbyist issues and if we engaged the services of one, it could impact the non-profit status. Deb noted while most trustees are elected officials, conflicts do exist.

Education Committee - Annual Conference Update: Deb C. had submitted a draft of the conference timeline to the board. There will be a 45 minute lunch and the conference will end at 4 instead of 3:30 pm. Deb H. will be leading a roundtable on strategic planning; Denise Van Zaten will be discussing policies regarding library material challenges and will also lead a roundtable. Deb C. and Rosemary are meeting weekly with Ashley Methot, Pat Pustell will help find nonprofits to have information tables at the conference. Deb H. noted she has a tip sheet for facilitators to use during the roundtables.

Rosemary submitted a document she had compiled that has all the information a new (and experienced) trustee can use, all in one place. She left the first page blank and thought it would be a good place for a letter by Marcia, welcoming new trustees. Deb C. thought it would be good to list the responsibilities of the chair, the treasurer and the secretary as well. Katrinka said she would see if Jill (designer of the trustee newsletter) would format all the documents to look consistent.

Governance Committee: Anne stated they met on December 21 and will be meeting again on Monday, January 9. There will be a roundtable discussion in the North Country and they are considering a full NHLTA board retreat in late March. After some discussion, the tentative date will be May 23, 2023. They are working on a NHLTA action plan to improve engagement, make it more relevant, and update communications with members. They will present the final revisions after the next Governance Committee meeting.

Communications: Connie submitted, via email, that the website template conversion will be done in the spring. Tammy noted the membership renewals will be sent out April 15 with a follow up in July. Conrad stated he was working on the microphone situation at Grappone. There was some discussion on buying or renting systems for the conference. Deb C. said each room had its own system and will ask Ashley to see what Grappone charges for a sound system. Katrinka stated the newsletters had been mailed out; the copy deadline for the spring issue is the first Friday in March. She'll be working on conference materials in February. There was a discussion regarding foundations versus Friends groups and what they are and aren't allowed to do. Marica thought that an article in the next newsletter regarding that subject would be a good idea.

OLD BUSINESS: Helping State Library fund UFL & Survey Responses: Katrinka stated there were 131 responses from 1100 members. The final votes were 32% said to continue access, 24% said no and 45% were somewhat interested in continuing. There was some discussion on whether NHLA could contribute but they were not able to do so. Marcia noted the cost of \$11500 was 10% of the funds currently held by NHLTA. Mark thought that money should be kept in reserve. Kathy noted there was no resounding yes or no response. Renee wondered if there was another benefit to the members that could take the place of UFL. Marcia replied that it would be discussed at the retreat.

Rosemary made the motion to not continue funding UFL; Katrinka seconded. All were in favor, none opposed. PASSED.

Facebook Update: Renee said there wasn't much to update but wondered if she should continue highlighting events at various libraries, which get the most traffic. Rosemary thought it would be nice and to spread the wealth.

NEW BUSINESS: Purchase of a meeting "Owl": Marcia described the advantages of an "Owl" - 360 degree view, focuses on a speaker, excellent sound; this would be used at roundtables. Tammy noted a laptop would be required that had Windows 10 or above and people needed to be trained to use it.

Kathy made the motion to purchase an "Owl"; Renee seconded. All were in favor, none opposed. PASSED.

LUNCH BREAK

HB 72: Deb H. noted the only change with this bill is to change the word "and" to "or" in RSA 202-A:15: "The librarian shall be appointed by the board of library trustees for a term of office agreed to at the time of employment and until a successor is appointed and qualified". This was proposed by a legislator who is also a trustee. Michael thought it would not be in anyone's best interest to make a change to an RSA for one situation that would affect all the libraries in the state and the state library agrees. It is no longer acceptable to hire a library director without a masters degree in library services from an accredited university. Discussion about annual performance reviews, noting term limits in the offer letter, having annual contracts that were reviewed annually or as often as the board of trustee state occurred.

Rosemary made the motion that the NHLTA does not support HB 72; Deb C. seconded. All were in favor, none opposed. PASSED.

OTHER BUSINESS: none.

The meeting adjourned at 1:41 pm. Tammy made the motion; Deb C. seconded. All in favor. PASSED.

Next meeting: The February 1, 2023 meeting is via Zoom at 10:00am.

Respectfully submitted, Kathryn Parenti