

New Hampshire Library Trustees Association- DRAFT

Board of Directors Meeting - via ZOOM

Wednesday October 5, 2022, 10 am.

Attending: Marsha McLaughlin, Katrinka Pellecchia, Mark Branoff, Anne Chant, Kathryn Parenti, Connie Kirwin, Lori Fisher, Mindy Atwood, Conrad Moses, Renee Mallett, Tammy Hooker, Michael York.

Absent: Deb Caplan, Rosemary D’Arcy.

Marcia called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Minutes: One correction - Mark noted the meeting was held in person, not via Zoom. Connie moved to accept the minutes as amended; Katrinka seconded. All in favor - PASSED

Treasurer’s Report: Monthly report for September was reviewed. Marcia asked if the balance of \$2700 in the scholarship line was to cover the spring scholarships. Mark replied it was. He stated there is a short article in the fall NHLTA newsletter regarding scholarship applications for the spring, with the deadline of November 1, 2022. Anne moved to accept the reports; Tammy seconded. All in favor - PASSED.

NHLA: Mindy Atwood, NHLA vice president, they are working with the Information Freedom Committee and had hoped to bring something to the board this month; they haven’t gotten to that yet and she will have something for the November meeting. She reminded the board of the NELA conference in Manchester on October 23-25 with a business meeting on Tuesday morning during the conference. She noted there will be a change of officers in January after a meeting with the new and existing officers in January. She will become the president and Denise will be moving to the past president role for 2023. The new vice president will become the NHLTA liaison.

State Library: Michael York noted the Department of Natural & Cultural Resources presented the budget to the Governor, which is the first step in the budget process; there are no big surprises. They are waiting for the Legal Service Requests (requests by the legislators) to put their newly proposed laws into a comprehensive language. He is afraid there will be some directed toward intellectual freedom. There are usually 800-900 to look through but the state is thorough. He urged the NHLA and the NHLTA to make sure their members know of the challenges, which have been dealt with for many years. Some are troublesome, some are time wasters. If anyone is dealing with a challenge, the state library wants to know about them. He did note the state library has no authority to dictate what the other libraries have in their collections. He said they get the question a lot: “Why isn’t the state library doing anything with local libraries?” There are 234 public libraries with boards of trustees, their own administrators and the people challenging it should take it up with their local library and not the state. Mindy appreciated the attention, resources and support with regard to challenges. In Dover, the person challenging went to the police because they said there was pornography in the library. The police disagreed and now the person wants the town attorney to take action against the library. All libraries have to work hard to reflect the values of the town they are in. Mindy noted there is also a NH downloadable books policy that’s in place as well. Michael noted libraries are tax supported and the taxpayers have a right to question; if all aspects are followed, they should, in theory, drop it. Marcia informed the board that Michael will be receiving the Emerson Greenaway Award for distinguished service in librarianship at the NELA banquet on October 23rd. Mark noted Emerson Greenaway was a past NHLTA director who won the Dorothy Little Award in 1989.

Education Committee: There was nothing to report as both Deb and Rosemary were absent.

Governance Committee: Anne stated they are planning to meet on October 25th and they are speaking with 3-4 people who are interested in helping with the Education and Governance Committees.

Communications. Connie asked when the newsletter would be mailed. Katrinka said it had gone to the printer and she had approved the proofs. Mark noted they are usually sent out the day after postage is requested. Katrinka reminded all the deadline for the winter issue is the first week of December.

OLD BUSINESS: Facebook: Marcia noted she had trouble looking at her normal feed after looking at the NHLTA feed. Renee said it was probably due to her being logged in as an admin. Marcia stated she liked what she was seeing. Renee was hoping to be more active on the page Tammy thought a note in the newsletter stating the NHLTA has a new Facebook page would be good. Connie suggested the NHLTA be in capital letters on the home page.

Wufoo vs Cognito: This item was tabled because Ashley, Deb and Rosemary weren't present. She noted a general discussion will go to the Education Committee. Katrinka noted Wufoo was \$14/mo. and Ashley creates the form; is the other software better? Marcia noted Judith said Wufoo allowed conference attendees to order lunch, although the NHLTA conference has lunch included. Connie noted Cognito can limit the number of registrants of each workshop based on the capacity of the room. Marcia stated she had gone on their website but didn't find the level Judith had talked about. There is a \$15/mo. level and there is a 20% discount if they pay annually plus an additional discount for nonprofits. She reiterated this discussion would continue at the Education Committee meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: Helping State Library fund UFL - Lori stated she had requested data and just received some of it right before this meeting. There were 392 registrations, 300 for programs, she doesn't have the statistics for downloadable programs. The statewide access began in October 2021 and she obtained an extension to February 2023. She will resend a reminder of the available resources and the PDF on how to register. There is an intellectual freedom toolkit that she highly recommended and boards can watch it together. The total cost is \$22,800 per year (\$100 per library). Tammy noted the Hooksett trustees had some difficulty logging on; Lori said she'd help. Anne asked if the NHLA would help fund this. Mindy replied they wouldn't - the ULA is for Friends groups, Foundations and Trustees. It would be good to see how many states used the services. Lori replied at least 15 states use it. Michael noted in NH everything is self-funded and he suggested collecting data to see if this would continue to be a valuable tool. Connie suggested the NHLTA do a survey. Marcia tasked Connie & Katrinka to work on it and report back. This will be on the November agenda.

Trustee Manual addendum on Collection & Reconsideration policies and forms: Marcia stated she had attended the Intellectual Freedom committee meeting yesterday and there were some inconsistencies. She did note the policy should include displays and digital materials. Lori stated the state library has a clear reconsideration form that delineates the director is the first stop; they send a letter to the person requesting reconsideration within 10-15 business days with the decision. The person can appeal to the trustees, in writing, who then decide whether or not to allow them to speak at a regular trustee meeting. The trustees then send their written decision. It's best to not have nebulous policies. Everyone must be consistent in messaging, have a policy in place and do not deviate.

Time or Date Change for the December Board meeting: It was decided that the December meeting would be on Tuesday, December 6th, via Zoom and the Wednesday, January 4th meeting will be in person at the State Library in Concord.

OTHER BUSINESS: Kathy had a question on where to send RFP's for a fundraising person for a capital campaign. It was suggested to send an email to the NHLTA mailing list and ask for contact information.

The meeting adjourned at 11:36 am. Tammy made the motion; Renee seconded. All in favor. PASSED.

Next meeting:

The November 2, 2022 meeting is via ZOOM.

Respectfully submitted, Kathryn Parenti