

NEW HAMPSHIRE LIBRARY TRUSTEES ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2019 10:30 am

NHMA, 25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord, NH

Present: Lara Berry, Mark Branoff, Anne Chant, Marty Davis, Susan Gaudiello, Connie Kirwin, Ed Moran, Conrad Moses, Katrinka Pellecchia, Bert Saul; Lori Fisher, Christine Frieese, Nancy Court

Susan called the meeting to order at 10:35 A.M. Prospective board member Nancy Court, a trustee from Northfield was introduced.

Secretary's Report: MOTION: (Bert/Conrad) to accept the minutes of the September meeting as amended. PASSED.

Treasurer's report: MOTION: (Katrinka/Jan) to accept the Treasurer's reports for September and October 2019. PASSED.

NHLA Report: Christine Frieese discussed three areas of concern for NHLA. 1) The Macmillan two-month embargo on ebook library purchases; 2) The online training service Lynda, which was purchased by Microsoft and is now requiring users to have a LinkedIn profile, which raises concerns about privacy; 3) the 2020 census – since this will be the first census that can be completed online, the impact on libraries will be greater – especially smaller libraries and those in areas without good internet. It is crucial that everyone in NH be counted as it affects representation and federal funding. 10 years ago, there were areas in Coos County that were undercounted by 60% and children under the age of six were also undercounted, which affects programs such as Head Start. Librarians cannot help people fill out census forms (only census staff can do that), but they can host workshops, identify special needs in the community, etc. April 1 is Census Day. NHLA will draft an article for the winter issue of NHLTA's newsletter.

State Library Report: Michael York is attending a conference; Lori Fisher reported in his place. The implementation of the new ILL system is going well; by Jan 1 all NH libraries who want to be using it, should be (there are currently around 10-15 libraries that are not automated). The State Library has been approved to join Digital Public Libraries of America, a great resource. On January 11, 2020, the State Library will be hosting a candidate event in order to emphasize how libraries are integral to the communities they serve and to bring library issues to the attention of those running for president. It will be held at the Concord City Auditorium from 9-1 pm, perhaps longer. This event will be live-streamed. NHLTA was encouraged to inform its members of the event. Lori was invited to write an article for the winter issue.

New Business:

Board appointment. MOTION (Jan/Ed) to appoint Nancy Court to the NHLTA Board. PASSED.

Upcoming legislation. 1) Currently there is no law in place regarding a probationary period for library employees; even if a library has a policy regarding a probationary period, it cannot be enforced. There is a Legislative Service Request (LSR 2020-2393) that would in effect establish a six-month period. 2) There is another LSR (2020-2400) requiring libraries to conduct criminal background checks on anyone who is invited to present a program or event who will have contact with minors. There is currently no regulation requiring that library staff and volunteers have to be checked (many libraries currently follow their town's policy regarding staff), and there is the question of who will pay for the checks – the current cost is \$48 for full background check (fingerprinting) or \$20 for basic checks. NH libraries currently put on 35,000 programs a year for children – absorbing the cost of checks would be very burdensome for communities. Ed will check on the status of both LSRs. The lack of communication on these bills was discussed – these LSRs were not brought to the attention of the State Library, NHLA or NHLTA.

Committee Reports:

- Governance: the committee has revised the board action plan; there was a motion to accept the revisions (Jan/Connie) PASSED. Bert will look into United for Libraries as to the cost to make this program of ALA available to all NHLTA members. There was discussion about scholarships, grants, etc. NHLTA already supports MLS courses; para-librarian courses are inexpensive; perhaps we could use funds for webinars, partner with the State Library, or NHLA. There will be no December planning meeting.
- Education: The Committee will be meeting after the board meeting, the Director/Trustee workshop in Epsom that Lara did went very well. The Orientation in Gorham that Susan and Bert did was well-attended; NHLTA's North Country liaison Elizabeth Milligan assisted in setting up the workshop.
- Communication: Connie is working on cleaning up the database. Susan and Connie met with NHMA prior to the board meeting to discuss the database and dues billing. The board welcomed Marty's return. The ListServ is still not accessible – Lori will see what she can find out.

Old Business: Susan and Katrinka attended the Library of the Year presentation in Goffstown and the Director of the Year presentation in Hopkinton. Both were very well attended by the community. The Outstanding Volunteer award will be presented in Chichester this Saturday, Susan and Katrinka will be there. Ed will present the Trustee of the Year Award in Hooksett on November 14; Bert will present the Friends Award in Lincoln in February.

Discussion of Annual Conference Partnership with NHMA. There are concerns that we are not ready to consider a partnership proposal until we evaluate our present process of

presenting the conference and the capacity of the board and committee to continue to deliver a quality event. The fact that we are short-handed should not be the driving force as there are other avenues we could explore for resources. There was concern that aligning our conference with NHMA's could cloud the separate identity of NHMA. It was also suggested that NHLA might be a more logical partner than NHMA. After further discussion of these and other considerations, MOTION: (Lara/Connie) to decline the NHMA proposal. The motion passed 10-1.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 8

Hospitality: Susan, Katrinka

Respectfully submitted,
Katrinka Pellecchia