

New Hampshire Library Trustees Association- FINAL

Board of Directors Meeting - via ZOOM

Wednesday, January 3, 2024, 10 am.

Attending: Marcia McLaughlin, Anne Chant, Deb Caplan, Mark Branoff, Kathryn Parenti, Connie Kirwin, Conrad Moses, Tammy Hooker, Rosemary D'Arcy, Renee Mallett, Cathy Harvey, Mindy Atwood - State Librarian, Rachel Baker - NHLA VP, Tom Ladd, Susan Gaudiello, Denise Van Zantan, Michael York - State Librarian

Absent: Deb Hoadley - NHLA Pres

Marcia called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

Minutes: Connie noted an error on the third page - "CMS" should be "AMS".

Rosemary made the motion to accept the December 6, 2023 minutes as amended. Connie seconded. All were in favor, none opposed. PASSED.

Treasurer's Report: Mark noted there were 5 deposits from the 2024 NHLTA conference sponsors, totaling \$2,250.00. He stated he'd been making inquiries into finding accountants to do the annual audit; not many were interested in doing anything more than filling out the 1099 postcard. He noted NHLTA might be too small to have that kind of work done. Connie asked if he had contacted Terry Knowles, who is on the board of the NH Center for Nonprofits (she had sent him her contact information) for a recommendation. He had not but said he would reach out. Mark also noted there were four people on the scholarship committee and he is waiting on the opinion of one person regarding 2024 scholarships. He will try to get it wrapped up in the next couple of weeks.

Conrad made the motion to accept the December 2023 treasurer's report. Renee seconded. All were in favor, none opposed. PASSED.

State Library: Michael York stated they are following the proposed legislative bills closely. He did note they were successful in getting SB475 - a request for design funds for the state library off site storage facility - approved. Senator Ennis of District 7 was the driving force and he appreciated his help. They have spent \$200,000 in planning and the next phase is designing the facility. He noted nothing had been done in terms of storage that had been done in the last 50 years. Renee asked if there was anything the NHLTA could do. He replied he will try to identify key legislators to speak to. He needs other people to talk about the services the state library provides. He noted he would be glad to host another NHLTA monthly meeting and showcase some of the items in the collection.

Review of 2024 proposed legislation: Mindy noted the proposed bills are geared toward schools but if they get enough traction, it could affect public libraries. She noted the NHSLMA (NH School Library Media Assn) will be joining NHLA. NHLA will change the bylaws to add them and NHSLMA will vote to dissolve and join NHLA. She also noted HB 1373 and 1378 have been withdrawn. Both Denise Van Zanten and Mindy expressed their appreciation to Representative Gannon and hoped to count on him to fight off other less favorable legislation. Denise noted she had just come from the NHLA Legislative Committee meeting and noted that some members thought the proposed bills might be good for libraries. She explained NHLA needs to be non-partisan and local control needs to be consistent. She noted HB 1308 is a nightmare bill and is poorly written, putting trustees and staff at liability risk. It also involves custodial issues. Mindy noted this one is going to the House Child and Family Committee. NHLA will reach out to the library directors in the sponsoring representative's district and urge them to communicate with their representatives. Renee spoke to her representative recently who was open to hearing the other side of the argument. There is a fine line between parental rights and parental responsibilities and it shouldn't be up to the library staff to keep track of children's library usage. Mindy noted it would be a nightmare for staff. Tom Ladd noted another approach would be that no part of government should be coming between a parent and child. Rosemary noted a parent demanded access to their child's library records and when the library refused, they threatened to sue. It eventually went away but she felt the best argument is you can't possibly keep track of what a child does in a library. Michael thought this should call for a fiscal note as all the extra work has the potential for being quite costly. Renee noted all kids in her school district receive Chrome books at kindergarten on up. Search histories are private but parents received library records. Mindy noted that it needs to be conveyed that it is not allowed, per the RSA's. Rosemary thought they should get C.A.S.A. to respond as well. Cathy is a C.A.S.A. and will speak to her supervisor.

HB 1342: NHLA does not support this. NY and MD challenged it and lost so if large states fail, NH will fail. Publishers are a strong group. Libraries are being asked to pay more for electronic books than paper books and it could cause NH to be cut off from all electronic media. This is bad legislation; there are no sponsors and no co-sponsors.

HB 1311: Denise noted this is not going anywhere; local control is the stance. Mindy noted NHSLMA is also against it.

HB 1479: Denise noted NHMA is all over this one. They don't support it, it comes forward every year and doesn't pass.

Marcia asked the executive board to vote on the proposed bills so NHLTA can be recorded.

HB 1308 - yes-0 no-9; **HB 1342** yes - 0 no-9; **HB 1373** yes - 0 no - 9; **HB 1378** yes - 0 no -9; **HB 1311** yes - 0 no - 9; **HB 1479** yes - 0 no - 9.

Marcia noted a draft of thoughts on the bills was sent to the board; individuals are to change the wording and make it individual and include it in an email to the local representatives sponsoring the bills; they will ignore form emails. Mindy noted NHLA is keeping an eye on SB 523 which defines what obscene materials are, develops a rating system and a procedure for removing materials and cause of action. NHLTA should keep an eye on it as well.

NHLA: Mindy stated the December meeting was in person (meetings are normally virtual) and included a business meeting, training and swap of officers. Mindy is the past president, Deb H. is president and Rachel is the president elect (VP). They have completed their one page (both sides) strategic plan that goes for 2 years. Rachel said she was eager to be the NHLA liaison and noted she can be reached at mrsbaker@elkinspubliclibrary.org. Their next executive board meeting is in February.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Education Committee: Rosemary noted they met in December and are waiting on RFP's for topics to be returned. Connie was helping in suggesting there should be an annual plan for gatherings, workshops, orientations etc and she is currently working on that.

Communications: Connie said the newsletter was excellent. She is currently working with the web designer and noted the website inner workings of pages have been transferred to the new host. She wondered if an email blast to members regarding the proposed bills should be sent out. Susan noted Connie did an excellent job of matching bills with sponsors and their libraries and communities. She said the seriousness of a bill should determine how hard to push. Conrad asked if the password protected page for the executive committee was available. Connie would look into it.

OLD BUSINESS: AMS update: There wasn't any update as Judith hasn't been available. Rosemary said she would get in touch with Ashley Methot and see if there was anyone else who could assist. She was worried about a switch impacting conference registrations. Conrad noted the contract with WUFOO was expiring soon as well.

Facebook Update: Renee stated there were no issues and there was a jump in followers over the holidays. There was a discussion on using FB to post about the potential bills but it could affect NHLTA's non-profit status if we lobby.

Governance Committee meeting in January: Anne said they are meeting on January 23 to discuss new members; if anyone knows of potential members, let her know. They will be discussing staggering term lengths as nearly all executive board member terms end at the same time.

NEW BUSINESS: Record retention: Marcia noted a committee was developed at the last meeting. Renee said they haven't met yet but she has done a little research; they will talk in the spring.

OTHER BUSINESS:

One page "So You Want To Be A Trustee" document: Marcia noted it needed to be concise & succinct. Rosemary would take a crack and Renee offered her graphic design skills.

Meeting Adjourned: Deb C. made the motion to adjourn; Renee seconded. All in favor. PASSED - 11:39 am.

Next meeting: The February 6, 2024 meeting is via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted, Kathryn Parenti