

## **Baker Free Library Monthly Trustee Meeting**

Monday, March 24, 2025 at 5:15pm

### **Draft Minutes**

**Attendance:** Eric Anderson (EA), Bob Arnold (BA – via phone due to business travel); Sheri Vincent-Crisp (SVC), Matt Gatzke (MG) and Sheila Williams (SW). Director Kaitlin Camidge also in attendance.

1. Call Meeting to Order: EA called the meeting to order at 5:16 pm.
2. Public Comment: none heard
3. New Business
  - a. Discussion: Executive Order regarding the Institute of Museum and Library Services
    - KC explained the potential impacts of the proposed elimination of IMLS services at the Federal level which provides approx. \$1.3M to the NH State Library which in turn uses the funds to operate and/or provide various services accessed by all NH libraries, including the Inter-Library Loan system; Talking Books and the heavily used Libby system (downloadable books and other media). The library could not replace any of these services in kind due to the larger platform on which these programs managed. Library stats indicate heavy usage of these services by both patrons and that the high school library accesses ILL materials via our library. Large Print books would be another example of services that could be cut. The discussion also dovetailed with the news on March 24 that Rep. Sweeney (R-Salem) had floated a proposal to the House Division I Finance Committee to defund the State Library entirely in the next budget. KC commented that the state library provides far more than the services mentioned above to help town libraries function, including on HR training matters and other resources such as internet access for staff. No specific action taken by the trustees on the March 24 proposal. External library organizations are responding.

After general discussion about our ability to appropriately alert our patrons about the potential impacts of the executive order, and after all trustees review and comments on proposed language in a draft website and newsletter alert, a motion was made by SVC, seconded by SW to give KC approval to move ahead with posting the statement on the BFL website and in the next newsletter. Motion carried via voice vote 5-0.

Discussion then focused on the creation of a bookmark to be placed inside all items checked out by patrons, also alerting them to the potential impacts of the funding cut. It included more specific language about the current services offered at the BFL which might be impacted. A motion was made by SVC to grant KC approval to move forward with creating the bookmarks, seconded by SW. During discussion it was suggested that the bookmark also include a point of contact in case patrons wanted to reach out after leaving the library. SVC amended her motion to include the contact information. The amended motion was seconded by SW. Motion carried via voice vote 5-0.

b. Approval of Contract for Legal Services

-As follow up to her work in refining an agreement with Attorney Eric Stern to provide legal services to the library on an as-needed basis and for a limited amount of hours as outlined in his agreement, KC reviewed all of the suggested changes and edits to his agreement as recommended by a third-party attorney who offered his services gratis. Trustees were in agreement with the change in turn, Attorney Stern either agreed to the items and/or he removed some language that was in question. BA made a motion to have request a contract in final form and to have KC and Eric Stern both sign the agreement. MG seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried via voice vote 5-0.

4. Public Comment: None heard.

5. Adjourn – MG made a motion to adjourn, seconded by SVC. Motion carried via voice vote 5-0.

Respectfully submitted, Matt Gatzke

Next Library Trustee Meeting:

Tuesday, April 8th, 2025 at 5:15pm at the BFL Library