

DRAFT



Whitingham Free Public Library
P.O. Box 500
Jacksonville, VT 05342

Whitingham Free Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

October 4, 2024

Meeting called to order at 5:59pm

In attendance Mark Halverson, Shandell Soumar, Maryanne Johnson, Judith Bernard, Wendy Sergeant Kristine Sweeter- Director

Mark Halverson led the meeting due to the absence of President Tanya

Bernard. Public comments: None.

Shandell Soumar made a motion to approve September 4, 2024 minutes with corrections (misspelled names). Judith Bernard seconded, all approved.

Between 5:30 pm - 5:59pm The board prepared mailings of the Annual Appeal.

Director's Report – See attached report.

Shandell Soumar made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:09pm, Wendy

Sergeant seconded it, all approved.

Next Meeting is October 6, 2024

Director's Report: Kristine Sweeter
October 2, 2024

❖ **Programming:**

Story Hour – BEGINNING Jan 4, 2025 – 1st Saturday of the month.

Adult Craft Group – 3rd Thursday 10:30 am

Yoga Mondays 6 pm

Homeschool Group – 2024-2025 school year - Mondays; 9-11 am, partnering with homeschool groups attending Science Class with Doug LaPlante of the J'vile Church. Lisa is working with younger kids while Doug works the older kids. Lisa's program includes stories, non-fiction, a science activity and art project. 8-10 kids, pre-k – 1st grade.

-the group will also be using library STEAM backpacks and Lego Machine Kits.

Book Group 2nd Wednesday 5 pm

❖ **Specials:**

- Bigfoot program: 12 people – 5 women / 7 men (6 men new to the library including 3 young adults)

Halloween Event – Thursday October 31st. Volunteers Needed!

Set up 2-5pm

During 5-7 pm

Clean-up 7-8pm

Jack-o-lantern contest, Trunk or Treat and Haunted Library walk-thru.

Pumpkins to be acquired through Boyd Farm, Wilmington or Hicks Family Farm, Charlemont MA. Cost TBD – Lion's Club to reimburse for ½ for pumpkins.

2024 VT Reads – **Gather** by Kenneth Cadow -

Summary: **A resourceful teenager in rural Vermont struggles to hold on to the family home while his mom recovers from addiction in this striking debut novel. Ian Gray isn't supposed to have a dog, but a lot of things that shouldn't happen end up happening anyway.**

November – community book discussion in partnership with Pettee Memorial Library.

Discussion Facilitator provided through grant confirmed: **Rachel Cohen**, a freelance editor specializing in environmental and regional studies, a teacher of writing, literature, and natural history, a caller of contra dances, and a farm hand. She has a Bachelor of Arts in English from Cornell University and a Master of Science in Environmental Education from the Audubon Expedition Institute/Lesley University. When she's not teaching for the University of Michigan's New England Literature Program, held each spring at a camp in New Hampshire, she's a caretaker in southern Vermont.

Possible author visit and /or possible presentation with Voices of Hope (local organization helping those with addiction)

❖ **Grants:**

Fiber-connect Grant – -received \$17,000

-4/18 – Equipment upgrade deposit (\$1235.57) First Choice Svc.

-7/23 – Equipment install balance (\$1235.56) First Choice Svc.

-Grant Balance \$14,528.87

VTLib Capital Project Grant – Submitted 3-12-24 / We did not receive the Capitol Project Grant. ☹️

I should be receiving a "graded" copy of the grant application I submitted. I will then be able to work on the areas that require improvement and re-submit for the Public Facilities Grant for small rural libraries when it becomes available.

Public Facilities Preservation Initiative Grant for small rural libraries – Fall 2024

❖ **Finances:**

2024-2025 Annual Appeal – in process

-Needed: volunteers to stuff envelopes

Account balance: M&T Bank Money Mkt Account \$47,212

❖ **Staff**

-Annual Staff reviews to be completed by the Library Director by Nov. 30, 2024.

-Lois vacation – 10/10- 10/21

-Kristine – Webinar: Changes to annual VT State Report. Friday Oct. 25 1:30-2:30