

**Stowe Free Library  
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes  
April 11, 2025**

**Present:** K.Spear, P.Lambert, S. Gaines, S.Edwards, L.Polk, A.Colavito

**Absent:** B.Mullin

**Call to order:** 8:06am

**Minutes:** Approved previous minutes with one change (add A. Colavito as present).

**Discussion of vandalism:**

Discussion of two separate incidents of stink bombs: discussion of first incident involving six grade boys, police called and implemented “trespass” including permanent ban from library property. Second incident involved stink bombs put in girls backpack and bookdrop. One child was identified by footage, and brought into police, who then wrote an apology to the library with offer to make amends. The written and in-person apology did not seem sincere (eg claim of placing stink bomb in garbage did not match facts; did not appear to understand community impact; proffered restorative options were not practical). All perpetrators were offered process to lift ban via restorative justice project with library director (boys do some introductory research on what a library is/does, craft questions, then as a group and ask people about how they use library, and then put posters on here’s how people use the library). Plan to follow up with police about other named culprits who have not yet faced consequences.

**Treasurers Report:** Operating account \$6,041.30, Copley Account \$22,735.19, Endowment account \$1,275,743.45. L.Polk approved a Copley expense, but the municipal finance department removed money from the incorrect (operating) account – without notification of the library board. There are two problems here: (1) the correct expense code was not followed, and (2) board needs to be notified upon any withdrawal. Recently, town has stopped notifying library board when money is withdrawn from library accounts. To follow-up, Kelley followed up with Penny to ensure this will not happen again.

**Director’s Report:**

Director wrote a report for publication regarding loss of federal ILMS funds. Board provided feedback that the key points could be conveyed more strongly (eg bullet points) about the specific impacts of the loss of federal funding on our library, including potentially a link to email the head of vermont library voicing support for interlibrary loan and other important programs that will be affected by ILSI cuts.

**Facilities report:** Not much news

**Friends’ Report:**

Idletyme night March 25 supporting Friends was a success

Booked Mushroom Forager in May (rebooked from Covid)

Patron wanted to support a science camp at the library supported by Friends, details to come. Interest from Garden Club at maintaining front gardens (however there's some pushback from municipal parks/rec)

Kim Kaufman & Kelley Spear organizing lawn trivia in summer rain or shine 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday June/July/Aug (linked to Color our World summer reading program – including arts, culture, sports), and all-Halloween trivia on Thursday before Halloween. Sponsorships and prizes Looking for local arts to print art to be printed on tote bags – inspired by Color Our World summer reading theme.

Noticed substantial revitalization in Friends activities under new leadership.

New “Coffee with Connie” about joining Friends of the Library, starting in May two public policy forums 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of month starting May 7, at 7:30 on US-Canadian diplomacy. Folks will watch webinar, then have in-person curated discussion on these civil topics.

Scavenger hunt planned.

### **New Business**

Officer terms up for Kelley, Shelby, Sarah, who all plan to renew. Kelley offered to extend leadership role an additional year, which was accepted unanimously, and since no other board members were currently ready to take on these additional responsibilities, discussion of how to grow new leadership.

**Next Meeting:** 8:00am Thurs May 1 2025.

**Adjournment:** 9:50am