

**GFL Trustees Minutes**  
**Friday, November 15, 2024**  
**3:30 to 5:30 p.m.**

***Present:** Brenden Beer, Mimi Benedict, Paula Davidson, Shelly Jungwirth, Jennifer Lucas, Beth Meachem, John Miller, Sharon Putney, Fan Watkinson,*  
***Absent:** Carol Reynolds*

Meeting called to order at 3:30 p.m.

Motion to accept October minutes by Beth, seconded by Mimi, accepted by all

Revisited conflict of interest. No conflicts reported.

**Friends of the Library – Brendan**

- Meeting of FOL yesterday, 10/14
- Talked about coordinating the chili dinner on a Friday – possibly a Thursday – in February (Valentines Day?). Will explore possible dates.
- Discussion to consider an annual directive from the Trustees for raising revenue and awareness and to bring in community members to re energize FOL
- Suggestion to create a long-term planning team and bring people into FOL with a focus (ie brick fundraiser, gardening, with perhaps homeschool parents)
- FOL is hosting a dinner for an Appreciation Dinner at Sharon's for Library volunteers

**Newsletter – Fan**

- Have received some donations from mailing already; some have been returned so are updating addresses. There has been positive feedback on the newsletter.
- Need people to write thank you notes. (Becky Arnold does higher donors, Bianca for those who respond to email appeal, Debbie Kasper sends thank yous; Fan and Shelly also volunteered to assist with writing thank yous.
- Shelly will take checks to the bank once a week while Jennifer is away.
- Not sure of the cost of mailing as yet.
- Will send out an email newsletter again for those who did not open the first one.

**Librarian /Programing Report – Paula**

- Many programs happening before Thanksgiving
- Emily's grant – Wisdom Connection Grant, \$5400 -received in Nov 2024; most of expenses in 2025.
- (see report following minutes)

### **Financial report: Jennifer**

- \$41k Appropriation received from town in October
- Donation down \$7K from last year at this time
- We are over in interest and dividends
- (see report in white binder.)

### **Maintenance: Beth/Brenden**

- Handy people – repaired rotting board in crawl space, painting completed where needed.
- Discussion about desk positioning, especially for Bianca
- Brendan and Beth met with the engineer from Marshfield last Wednesday - he will present a formal write up of his observations, specifically to address safety issues. Even if we had more land we would still be dealing with climbing a hill which doesn't solve accessibility issues.
- Beth received an acceptance letter for the MERP Grant (Municipal Energy Resilience Program), a lesser amount than we applied for; we will get \$121,400; the select board signed off on it. We have until December 2026 to complete projects. Reimbursement grant but might get 20% up front.
- Wastewater question –Beth attended the last selectboard meeting where the issue was discussed. The official report will be presented to the town on November 21st. How this initiative plays out is still to be determined.

### **Human Resources:** Reviews will be made in December

Paula will put a link to the recording of the meeting on FPF, or give to Mimi to put up along with the minutes.

Motion to adjourned at 4:50 p.m. made by Beth, seconded by Mimi and approved by all

**Next Meeting: Friday, December 20th at 3:30 p.m.**

## **November Librarian's Report 2024**

**Programs:** We had 56 people attend our 10 September programs for adults in October, including the program on Read Dialogue. Ken and Janney Johnston were our porch sitters for the Halloween Trail, and kids loved their pumpkin rocket! Renee Rossi will follow up her women's health class with an ayurvedic health class next Thursday. The Knitting Club has moved to Thursdays at 3:30 as of this week, so they won't be so much in the dark. We're hosting the Vermont Reads title, Gather, for our book club next Thursday at 1, and Elinor Osborn will present on Owls next Friday at 10:30. And Beth and Joanne George will host a holiday card making workshop on Sunday, 12/1. I hope to get the propane fireplace going and host Donna Joerg singing for an afternoon later in December.

**Grants:** Courier Grant and Wisdom Connection grant received. And Beth will report on the MERP grant, hurray! Donations: We sent out the mailchimp appeal today, and received 5 donations over Paypal. Bianca is sending the email thank-you notes, and Debbie the written ones, and I shared my Google sheet of donations with them both so they can mark off when each is done. I will pass on returned/address change envelopes to Fan.

**Art Gallery:** Owls this month, pinecone art next month by Maggie Austin, and in January we expect a display from participants in art classes through NEK Human Services. We're looking for artists to exhibit after January.

**Staffing:** We will be closed for Thanksgiving, and Emily and I are both taking the Friday after Thanksgiving off. Bianca will come in that Friday. I will be busy in December with the Annual Report (the statistics form for the state, as well as a write-up for the town), and also purchasing the award-winning and "best books of the year" with our Herrick Fund. Rosann will be out most of December, and Galen has offered to cover for her Sunday shifts, and Beth has offered to cover shifts that others cannot.

**Building:** I had Jack Kaufman come check out the staff bathroom toilet after it started clogging frequently again. He pulled the toilet and didn't find any issues there, and suggested we get a septic camera down to view the pipe after it leaves the basement cleanout and goes to the tank. I am waiting to hear from Taplin's Septic Service about doing this. We're not using that toilet for now.

We have had a great November so far.

The homeschoolers and Lakeview 3rd grade have their last StoryKeepers session with Natalie Kinsey today, Friday Nov. 15th. After that students will work on their family history projects and we will reconvene for an informal presentation session.

Homeschoolers enjoyed a hands-on Four Winds class on Erosion with thanks to the Sterling Environmental Education class.

I will start reading at the Lakeview preschool next week. We are still figuring out the schedule.

Friday Nov. 22nd at 10:30 Paula has organized an Owls program with gallery artist Elinor Osborne. Afterwards youth are invited to dissect owl pellets to further their knowledge and experience. Lakeview and homeschool students have been invited to this public all ages event.

### **Children's programs: Emily Purdy**

After school group has been wonderful as usual. The kids are very happy to be at the library reading, crafting, playing, doing puppet shows. They love the new marble maze!

We are polling the families to see what they would like to do over Thanksgiving break. We will likely have a movie moment.

We received a generous grant to host 7 programs over the course of 2025 as well as to purchase Legos that highlight simple machines. The programs will be available to kids and adults in many ways-at Lakeview, at the library, and at the Four Seasons of Early Learning. The programs include pottery, natural paints and paintbrushes, animals and art, journalling and animation, storytime with author John Chapman, Abenaki culture, and talisman bag making. All programs involve storytelling and education to deepen one's own experience and connect us with a shared group experience. I am trying to keep this report brief but please reach out with any questions.

We have submitted another Wonderbook order for GFL and Lakeview and expect them to arrive at the end of December. We are also able to purchase some for the Four Seasons of Early Learning for their new and developing listening center. They remain very popular.

Carol and I are thinking about easy to procure take home craft kits for kids to do at home for the holidays in December.

The numbers for youth programming this month so far are 105 kids and 34 adults