

Director's Report
9.24.2018
Community Meeting Room

General updates

- I attended a Regional Directors meeting on August 24th. Topics discussed included summer reading, trustee conflicts of interest, upcoming professional development opportunities, and ALA's updated policy on meeting room use.
- Catherine and I attended the Preservation Trust of Vermont's retreat for Libraries, Non-Profits, and Publically Owned Buildings on Sept. 17 and 18. It was a great opportunity to discuss Ilsley's renovation, where we are in the process, and brainstorm steps for moving forward. It was also helpful to connect with people at the Arts Council, who offer a facilities grant, and the Vermont Dept. of Housing & Community Development.
- Ilsley will be partnering with the Hannaford Career Center to sponsor a First Robotics team. The team will be run by Devon Karpack and Bill Beiderman, members of the Hannaford Career Center Makerspace Steering Committee. Hannaford will supply the funding and practice space. Ilsley will manage volunteers and provide administrative support as needed.
- Ilsley and MCTV participated in MiddAction, meeting with students at Middlebury College and discussing opportunities for student involvement at the library.

Facilities

- VT Gas is seeking an easement to supply natural gas to the building adjacent to the library (the travel agency building). This easement will go to the Selectboard for approval. The gas line would be as close to the theatre as possible, and thus would not interfere with the library's planned renovation. This means we will also be able to get rid of the large propane tank in the library's side yard.
- Dan Werner and I met with the Energy Committee and then subsequently with Efficiency Vermont to come up with a plan to address Ilsley's heating needs. Our conversation with both the Energy Committee and Efficiency Vermont were very productive and as a result we have a tentative action plan for updating and replacing the library's heating system (included in board packet).
- The four Black Locust trees and one Box Elder tree that run along the edge of the lawn closest to the theater have been flagged for removal by Tree Warden Chris Zeoli. The plan is to have assistance from GMP for the portion of the trees interfering with the high tensile transmission wires; to have a contractor take the trees down to ground level; and then to have stump grinding at a later date.

Security

- On August 29th we discovered 15-20 beer cans in the side yard. The inside bracket on the window above the area where the beers were found had been pried off. I reported this to the police.
- On September 5th we discovered graffiti (a peace sign) spray painted onto the north side of the building. I reported the incident to the police. Mike was able to remove the paint.
- We are beginning to find beer cans in the library garden and in the yard next to the library on a regular basis. Police Chief Tom Hanley has asked his officers to start coming by the library to clear anyone off the property after midnight. The public are currently not allowed on library

property from 12:00 am to 7:00 am. The board could consider changing the ordinance on the library's property so that the public have more limited access to library property.

Budget

- The library's Capital Budget for FY 20 was submitted to Town Manager Kathleen Ramsay.
- Draft of Operating Budget for FY 20 was reviewed with board treasurer (attached). This budget is due to Kathleen on Friday, October 26.
- Draft of Revenue Budget was reviewed with board treasurer (attached). Also due Friday, October 26.
- Chris Kirby and I have begun working on a priority list and schedule for future library technology needs.

Project Updates

- Background Checks: I have applied for permission from the Vermont Criminal Convictions Records department for Ilsley to run fingerprinting checks through the sheriff's office. This would allow us to run checks through a national database, as opposed to state only.
- Request for New Position: I reviewed the request for a new position with Kathleen Ramsay and Chris English, who had helpful feedback. I am working on a revised draft to submit to the personnel committee.
- Library Brochure: Lisa Rader's design class will start working on the brochure in November. A student photographer has already come by the library to get updated images.
- Coffee in the Library: The Friends of the Library have agreed to fund serving coffee in the library. I am writing up a formal proposal for them with anticipated costs etc. We will use a Keurig.

Upcoming Programs

- **Middlebury Community Classic Film Club: *Amistad*. September 27 @ 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm.** Our fall 2018 theme is immigration and migration, and the first film offers Hollywood's take on the Amistad trial, the true story of the struggle for freedom in pre-civil war America. The following films will also be shown this fall: *The Emigrants*(10/25), *El Norte* (11/29), and *West Side Story* (12/20). Coffee and cookies will be served.
- **Middlebury Classic Quidditch Festival. September 29 @ 10 am-5 pm.** Ilsley and MCTV will have a tent at the Quidditch Festival. We will offer Harry Potter themed crafts and a green screen and camera set-up where participants can see themselves flying a broom in front of a Harry Potter themed backdrop.
- **First Wednesday Talk: Creativity and Historical Truths. October 3 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm** Despite the essential role of print and photojournalism in ferreting out facts and informing the public about significant events, Dartmouth professor Irene Kacandes argues that it is often memoir, fiction, music, and art which best convey the truth and leave indelible impressions.
- **Northern Forest Canoe Trail. October 9 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm.** In the spring of 2013, Peter Macfarlane through-paddled the Northern Forest Canoe Trail from the Adirondacks to northern Maine, a distance of some 750 miles in 28 days in a cedar-strip canoe that he designed and built. In this presentation he takes the audience on a trip through his planning, and then the roller coaster ride of overcoming challenges, joyful paddling, loss, exhaustion, despair, and some sublime moments, all illustrated with photos and snippets of video.