

**Griswold Memorial Library Board of Trustees**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**August 12, 2024 at 6:00 pm by Zoom**

**I. Opening**

- a. Meeting called to order at 6:01 pm.  
Roll call, Trustees: Nancy Turkle, Betsy Browning, Cheli Mennella, Dago Driggs, Mikaela Whitaker; regrets: Betty Johnson  
In attendance: Chelsea Jordan-Makely, Diana Parsons, Hadley Looman, Joe Slowinski
- b. Land acknowledgement
- c. Team agreements

**II. Approval of agenda**

Betsy moved we approve the agenda as written. Mikaela seconded. Agenda approved.

**III. Approval of meeting minutes**

Betsy moved we approve the minutes for June. Mikaela seconded. June minutes approved.

**IV. Reports**

a. Director's report

Thanks to everyone who came to DC to celebrate: It was incredibly special, and the medal is on display in the GML; people enrolled in the summer reading program so far; updates on the HVAC situation; letters from BOH and FRCOG require everything in the basement to be removed because of mold; the basement flooded badly after water came in through the sump pump ground pit because the pipes are blocked; Harnett advised replacing the pipe from the sump pump and add a catch valve; the cost is @ \$1,000, and with enough in the maintenance budget to cover it, they were given the go ahead on the work.

A capacity grant will be used to work with the sheriff's office and do pop-ups at the transfer station; the new StoryWalk® launch event at Pine Hill coming up with music, storytelling, and book signing with local author Grace Lin; partnering with Boswell's Books to bring author books to event; ideas for using IMLS award: new sign in front, add hours on to Asst. Dir. Position, new rug and shelving to arrange the east room for better meeting space, and new white board.

There is the idea of an official community plan for Colrain being developed which would dovetail with the GML strategic plan; meeting with an MLS consultant about strategic planning, which would ideally be finalized by Dec 31; completed digitizing Colrain soldier history and The Recorder called about doing a story about them; and there is a possible collaboration opportunity with a robotics organization to do workshops at the GML.

Dago made a motion to accept the Director's report. Betsy seconded. DR accepted.

**b. Treasurer's report**

Tabled until next meeting.

**c. Cornerstone Committee report**

Received a letter from FRCOG about needing to remove vector materials in basement including shelving; the local crew that will lead soil testing, survey, and wetlands delineation on hold; Laroque needs to up their insurance policies to meet FRCOG requirements; the process is moving forward, albeit slowly.

**d. Governance Committee report**

Nothing to report.

Need to work on drafting a local history development policy.

**V. Ongoing Business**

**a. Strategic planning**

Meeting with Oscar to discuss strategic planning; target sample size for survey is 300 responses; Dago talked with Erica Wheeler about her consulting company 'Sense of Place' which helps people share how they connect to place through stories; considering how we might partner with her and other entities in town on strategic plan.

**b. IMLS Award**

Award of \$10,000 to spend; brainstorming on how to use the money, including new signage, improving meeting space, and extra staffing hours.

**c. Fix-It Day planning**

Fixers lined up; received a grant to hire a knife sharpener and produce a banner; there will be a FRTA shuttle going between the school and library; health nurses will also be there for consulting.

**VI. New Business**

**a. Town administrator**

Diana Parsons was introduced to the group.

**b. Colrain Historical Society**

Hoping to schedule a meeting with CHS to share priorities, maybe even have quarterly meetings; would like to involve them in strategic planning; would be great to find a new home at the CHS for items of ephemera that have been advised to be moved out of the library.

**VII. Public comments**

Joe Slowinski commented on: procedural votes online, addition of public comment period, current strategic plan, online/hybrid meetings.

**VIII. Adjourn**

Dago made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Betsy seconded.  
Meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm

Next scheduled meeting: Monday, September 9, at 6pm, hybrid via Zoom and at the GML

*Respectfully submitted by Cheli Mennella*