Dermott O'Toole Memorial Library
Regular Meeting of the Library Board
Weds. Sept 24, 2025 at 4:00 pm
At the library and over Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 4:05pm Board members present were Heather Lende, Teresa Hura, Julie Hamilton, Anne Connelly and Mary-Claire Bernstein (all!). Librarian Ruth Underhill was also present.

The agenda was approved by consensus.

The minutes of the last regular meeting were approved by consensus

The treasurer reviewed her written report. A discussion followed of two debit card charges that are not accounted for. One ($36) occurred in June and the other recently. The June charge was identified as PP*Better Half Douglas AK. The recent charge ($7.99) was identified as a Kindle "Camp Nurses' Survival Guide" Neither Julie nor Ruth know about anything purchased that matches these descriptions. Discussion was about whether someone else has the card or number and if it is necessary to get a new number. The possibility was mentioned that Kona or Dee might have made these charges. Ruth will check with them.

The Librarian gave a verbal report. She is planning another book club meeting in January but has not chosen the book yet. She is planning right now for twice a year and will ramp up if she sees interest.
She set up new displays this week and made a call for winter volunteers. With summer volunteers leaving, we are not covering all shifts easily.
The Starlink tech did not show up yesterday because of weather. Ruth asked Julie to review why we are switching internet providers. The new provider is planning to arrive next Thursday or Friday. New internet equipment has arrived. Julie is currently dealing with bids for the 2027 year for eRate. Seaport (our previous provider) is now an authorized Starlink dealer and Julie expects that they will bid to be our provider again.
Book week is coming up and Ruth is planning an event. She hopes to do a monthly event for kids and one for adults every few months.

Ruth asked the board is there was interest in funding the showing of independent documentaries. It was suggested that she have some movie events and see who

comes. If there are enough people then we could consider the cost of documentaries.
Storytime was a popular activity in the summer. Ruth might extend it to winter.

There was no public comment.

Under old business, the following were discussed:

•Internet/Starlink report: The discussion (above) occurred during the Librarian's report.

•PLA grant report: Our funding is being held until they receive the waiver form about open hours on evenings and weekends. Ruth will complete the form. MaryClaire suggested she make the point that Tenakee doesn't have a lot of people who are working daytime hours so more weekday hours is more conducive to library usage than nights or weekends. Also, Sunday is church, which is using same building which would produce noise overlap
Julie questioned whether there was a letter needing signatures; a Grant Agreement letter. There was some confusion. Ruth will ask Kate Enge at state library about it.

•Microscope use plan: Mary-Claire reported that she, Anne and Nate Storey met to discuss the microscope. Nate will conduct three sessions to familiarize people with the microscope and show them what might be seen. Mary-Claire will order another microscope of the design that magnifies actual items beneath it as a donation to the library. At their meeting it was agreed that a "directions" or "how to operate" sheet should be created and laminated for the microscope. Also, that policies concerning use of the microscope should be developed and posted somewhere. Available for check-out (removal from library?) If so, for how long? Age of child who can use without close adult supervision. etc.

•Budget—It was unknown whether the grant and the internet would change figures, but the budget for next year should be final as is.

Under New Business the following were discussed:

- Winter hours: Since we decided to do the waiver, the hours will stay the same.
- Book Hook grant: Teresa wrote it up before. We could use similar answers. But she is traveling soon so is unable to work on it. She will find her file and send it to Heather. Teresa ordered last time through the bookstore in Haines, which gave us a big discount and Seaplanes shipped free. Haines has new owner of the bookstore. Heather will take responsibility for writing the grant and talk to the bookstore owner in Haines.
- Drop box for books at the store. Mary-Claire has been monitoring the drop box and collecting books and returning them to the library and will not be in Tenakee for the winter. Ruth is willing to keep it going as she wants to keep things as regular as possible. Mary-Claire asked Tiffany to keep an eye on the box and notify Ruth when things are left in the box.

The next meeting will be Tuesday October 21st, at 4:00pm

The meeting was adjourned at 5:24pm

Respectfully submitted,
Mary-Claire Bernstein, Secretary

Board chair: Heather Lende
Board vice-chair: Teresa Hura
Board secretary: Mary-Claire Bernstein
Board Treasurer: Julie Hamilton
Board Member-at-large: Anne Connelly

Librarian: Ruth Underhill