

## Brooks Memorial Library Finance Committee

Tues, Feb 2, 2021 4:45 PM

Virtual meeting via link provided by Town of Brattleboro and publicly accessible

Attending: Jenny Rowe, chair; Leo Schiff, Sirkka Kauffman, Starr Latronica. Absent: John Woodward

### MINUTES

Jenny called the meeting to order at 4:45 PM.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved after a motion by Leo and a second by Sirkka.

New Business:

- The committee reviewed the one-year and five-year benchmarks provided by Prentiss Smith. The library's account outperformed both the 60/30/10 balanced benchmark and the stock-only S&P500 benchmark this year. Over five years, the 60/30/10 benchmark did slightly better than the library's account and the S&P500 did slightly worse than the stocks in the library's account. The library's equity-only performance in 2020 was so high (32.61%) the committee wondered if it could possibly be reported incorrectly; Jenny will check. The numbers will be reported to the full board on the third-quarter endowment report. The committee would also be interested in seeing the one-year benchmarks for the previous several years.
- Jenny noted that one of the six accounts the library has at Schwab is currently not showing a last-month statement. Jenny has inquired of Penny why this is so. The account itself is still there and all its transactions are viewable online.
- The committee spent some time distinguishing the "Board Projects Account" from the budget line BR15, "Board Approved Projects" and the budget line BR20, "Projects." The first is one of the library's six Schwab accounts; it holds newly received donations that have not yet been allocated by the board plus funds the board expects to spend in the next five or so years. The second is a budget line funded every year by the board with a portion of the 4% draw from the endowment; the recent staff bonuses were paid from here, as well as the annual appeal expenses and the clerk expense for taking minutes at board meetings. The third is not funded unless the board chooses to spend from the "Board Projects Account," outside of the annual budget process. This account has approximately \$4600 remaining after the purchase of chairs earlier in the year.
- Starr reported that the library has received a \$1500 grant from the Vermont Community Fund to purchase 10 hotspots for lending.

Next meeting tentatively set for Tuesday, March 3, 4:45.