

**Jones Memorial Library
Trustee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 17, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m.

Present: Joanne Williams, Jeannette Powell, Joan Huguenin, Tina Bailey, Sandra and Larry Wilcox and guests Ed and Adrien Helm and Tony and Margo Daniels.

Privilege of the Floor – Ed Helm spoke to the group about the Dolly Parton Imagination Program.

Children receive a book once a month from birth to age five. The books are age appropriate and two a year are bi-lingual, English and Spanish. Ed introduced Tony Daniels who is well known for his performance as Gen. U.S. Grant and Ed has done performances as Mark Twain.

Dolly Parton's father could not read and as a child she decided she would do something for literacy. She started the program over 24 years ago and it now is used in four countries. Over 100,000,000 books have been distributed. At the Glover Library, librarian Toni Eubanks and the board have considered and approved it, and families in Glover have started receiving Dolly Parton books once a month. Very recently Barton Library decided to adopt the DPIL Program, Ed said.

Ed said that, according to DPIL Program research 85% of the brain is wired in the first 5 years of life.

He passed around samples of books. "The Little Engine That Could" is one of the books given to kids, an inspiring book for all ages. "Blueberries for Sal" is another much loved book. "Dolly Parton I Am a Rainbow" and "Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come" are other books given out. He pointed out that the

DPIL Program makes these great books even better by adding an end book guide to parents about how to read them to their children to help better make the stories come alive.

Tony and Margo Daniels and Ed and Adrien Helm are offering at least \$1200 to the Jones Memorial Library to assist the Library in adopting the DPIL Program for Orleans, Brownington and other areas serviced by the Library to get things started. He said it costs \$26 per year including postage to send a book a month per child.

Tony Daniels talked about being a teacher of disadvantaged children. Jeannette explained the paper handed out showing about how many children in our area would be eligible and the approximate total cost of \$1630 over 5 years.

Joanne Williams asked about how much time it would involve on our part. Ed said because the number of children being enrolled in the Orleans area is not many, the time required should be minimal. Ed commented that he has learned of someone willing to put the four pieces of information that the PDIL

Program needs to send the books out to children. These four are name of the child, birthdate, name of parent or guardian's name(s), and mailing address. Ed said that PDIL Program requires contracting with a 501c3 and Joanne said the Friends of the Jones Memorial Library has a 501c3.

We would need a postal bulk rate permit and Ed indicated that he and Tony Daniels had earlier met with Postal Worker, Carmen Riendeau, who has agreed to assist getting this from the Post Office. There may be an additional cost for someone locally to manage this program. Ed Helm hopes that Federal funds will be available through the help of the Vermont Congressional delegation especially now that Senator is Chair of the Senate Budget Committee and Senator Leahy is Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. The Dolly Parton people are wonderful to work with. Sandy Wilcox asked if we could also include Coventry and Westmore. Ed couldn't say for sure, but thinks it would be great.

Part of Westmore sends children to the Orleans School and Westmore and Coventry support the Jones Memorial Library. Ed said a recent NY Times article indicates that Bernie Sanders is very supportive of improving early childhood education in the country saying, "Does anyone deny that pre-K, similarly, is totally inadequate."

Jeannette said we will discuss this and get back to Ed within a few days. Joanne Williams asked "Does Jeannette have access to the Program Guide" to review before the zoom meeting with Ms. Christy Crouse, DPIL Program Regional Director regarding this program. {Subsequently, Ms. Crouse has indicated she welcomes a zoom meeting with her and the Library and also responded to Sandy Wilcox's question stating in an August 18, 2021 e-mail to Ed Helm, "Regarding your question: If the (Orleans) Friends of the Library 501-c- went forward to adopt the DPIL program, could they include other communities and villages like Coventry, VT.? The answer is yes, you can expand your service area very easily as long as there isn't a program in the area already." Ed Helm will be at the Orleans Trustees Meeting on August 23.

In the absence of Secretary Laura Lamonda, Joan Huguenin took the minutes.