

**VALATIE FREE LIBRARY**  
**Minutes of October 26, 2020 virtual meeting**

Meeting came to order at 7:08pm

Present:

Trustees: Emilia Teasdale, Jill Leinung, Shirley Kelly, Jeremy Shank, Kristi Berner

Library: Director Elizabeth Powhida

Excused: Sally Hogan, Meg Todisco

Guests: None

**Public Comment**

None

**Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes**

The minutes from the September 21, 2020 virtual meeting were reviewed. Motion of Trustees Shank/Leinung to approve the minutes carried.

**Treasurer's Report**

Trustee Kelly presented her report. Miscellaneous items mentioned, including:

- New York Library Services funding will be reduced by 22.6% next year
- In addition to reduced state funding, we need to consider that certain grants may not be as readily available next year due to the economic downturn related to the pandemic.
- Discussion of possible fundraising push or search for additional grants for next year.

Motion of Trustees Berner/Shank to approve the Treasurer's Report carried.

**Director's Report**

Director Powhida presented her report, including:

- Book Sale and 50/50 Raffle - Saturday, October 31 from 9am to 2pm. Board agreed to cancel Friday sale day due to expected snow/inclement weather.
- September patron statistics:
  - In-person & curbside visits - 357
  - Book Circulation - 1,071
  - E-books - 256
  - Audio books - 133
- October programming was very successful with Fabric Exchange, Pumpkin Decorating, Embroidery, Story Hour, Great Give Back Day Donation to Valatie Food Pantry, Book Club with author Stephen Kiernan, Story Walk on Main Street in Valatie.
- November/December planning in the works, likely including: Photo Memories of 2020, Paint & Sip (remote), Giving Tree, helping an ICC Family during the holidays, and more
- Results of library survey
- We have a potential donor for new furniture for the children's area
- Library will be closed all day Friday, Nov. 6th for new furnace installation

## **Old Business**

1. Landscaping - path from parking lot to the bike trail is clear thanks to help from volunteers Ron Rich and Jake Samascott who cleared the path and are putting down gravel later this week. Ron Rich also donated the rocks.

Trustee Kelly reports the woodchuck problem is solved thanks to volunteers Tony and Anthony who helped fill the woodchuck hole with stone donated by Mario's.

2. Long Range Plan - President Teasdale said the survey is still available for another two weeks. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to participate.

3. Board Openings - Former Trustee Schmidt's position is still open. A second seat will open up in January when Trustee Shank's term on the board expires. Be on the lookout for new members. Someone who has knowledge of building care and maintenance would be a bonus.

4. Harassment policy form - Board members who have not completed this required form, please send to Elizabeth asap.

5. New Standards - President Teasdale said Mid-Hudson has issued some new standards for member libraries, including posting the board meeting agendas and minutes on the library website on a timely basis.

## **New Business**

1. Board appointments/committees - President Teasdale will email the board to assess interest in Fundraising, Long Range Plan and other committees.

2. Fundraiser/Book Sale - pricing set at past levels:

- \$2 Hardcover books
- \$1 Paperback books
- \$1 Children's books

## **Trustee Concerns**

None

## **Meeting Close**

Motion to adjourn by Trustees Kelly/Berner at 8:10 carried.

Next meeting: November 16, 2020

Minutes submitted by Kristi Berner.