

VALATIE FREE LIBRARY
Minutes of January 18, 2021 regular & annual meetings (virtual)

Meeting came to order at 7:01pm

Present:

Trustees: Emilia Teasdale, Shirley Kelly, Jill Leinung, Sally Hogan, Meg Todisco, Kristi Berner

Library: Director Elizabeth Powhida

Guests: Potential board members: Joyce LaRowe and Melissa Schieren

Public Comment

LaRowe and Schieren spoke about why they would like to join or re-join the board.

Annual Meeting

Director Powhida gave a brief review of 2020 library operations, including patron visits and circulation numbers.

Emilia Teasdale was unanimously re-elected to Board President after motions by Trustees Hogan/Todisco.

All other officers were unanimously re-elected after motions by Trustees Todisco/Hogan.

Vice President - Jill Leinung

Treasurer - Shirley Kelly

Secretary - Kristi Berner

The annual meeting was closed after motions by Trustees Hogan/Todisco.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the December 21, 2020, virtual meeting were reviewed. Motion of Trustees Hogan/Kelly to approve the minutes carried.

Treasurer's Report

Trustee Kelly presented her monthly report and reviewed the 2021 budget.

The board's December fundraising letter was a success, raising nearly \$2,700 since late December.

Treasurer Kelly spoke about recent negative experiences with Community Bank's customer service and efficiency. Trustee Kelly made a motion to move the board's accounts to the Bank of Greene County, which offers more favorable terms. Trustee Berner seconded. The motion carried.

Motion of Trustees Leinung/Hogan to approve the Treasurer's Report carried.

Director's Report

Director Powhida presented her report, including:

- The library's new programmable thermostat is working well.
- Director Powhida is working with Mid-Hudson to make the website more user-friendly for mobile devices.
- The programs are going well. At least 80 children have registered for the kids book club, which is a joint project with the Kinderhook Library.
- The December Paint-n-Sip was a success, led by Program Coordinator and artist, Chuck Groenink.
- Artist Nancy Kohler is offering an art journaling video class for adults and teens. The Bank of Greene County donated supplies.
- The staff is working on grants (Stewart's and Hudson River Bank and Trust).
- The library is aiming to send a print newsletter in the spring and would like to raise money for that project.
- The monthly food drive continues.

Old Business

1. Long Range Plan: draft will be emailed for the next board meeting.
2. Policy Committee Report:

Trustee Todisco said the committee is reviewing all library policies, beginning with the external policies. Changes to several external policies were discussed by the board and the following motions were made:

Trustee Todisco suggested that wording in the "Computer Use Guidelines" requiring a signed "Limitation of Liability Agreement" should be removed. A motion made by Trustees Teasdale/Berner to remove this language from the policy carried.

Trustee Todisco found a sentence that needed clarifying in the "Patron Code of Conduct" related to bringing animals or pets into the library. Trustees Teasdale/Kelly presented a motion to change the wording to:

"Bringing animals or pets into the library **is prohibited**, except those required to assist persons with disabilities or those involved in library programs."

The motion carried.

Trustee Todisco suggested the board review the "Library Meeting Policy" and discuss at the February board meeting.

Trustee Todisco suggested the the board review the library's customer service policy and discuss at the February board meeting. She suggested adapting wording from another library website.

Trustee Todisco could not find evidence that the library's "Smoking Policy" had ever been approved by the board. A motion by Trustees Kelly/Berner to accept the policy (as written) carried.

Trustee Todisco said a next step is to post the library's external policies on its website. The committee is continuing its review.

3. Board Openings

Discussed earlier in Public Comment section

New Business

1. President Teasdale reported the Albany-Hudson Electric Trail is now officially open and is already attracting new visitors to the library! Two people came into the library from the trail and signed up for library cards.

Trustee Concerns

None

Executive Session

The board went into an executive session for five minutes.

Approval of New Board Members

When the board returned from executive session two new members were approved.

A motion by Trustees Leinung/Todisco to approve Melissa Schieren to full term on the board carried.

A motion by Trustees Kelly/Berner to approve Joyce LaRowe to a partial term on the board carried.

Meeting Close

Motion to adjourn by Trustees Kelly/Leinung at 8:15 carried.

Next meeting: February 15, 2021

Minutes submitted by Kristi Berner.