

VALATIE FREE LIBRARY
Minutes of November 15, 2021 Meeting (in-person)

Meeting came to order at 7:02 pm

Present:

Trustees: Shirley Kelly, Jill Leinung, Meg Todisco, Joyce LaRowe, Melissa Schieren

Excused: Kristi Berner, Emilia Teasdale ,Sally Hogan

Library: Director Elizabeth Powhida

Members of the Public: None

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

September: Motion by Trustees Kelly/Todisco to approve amended Minutes to reflect the policies listed in the Minutes as discussed and approved along with the addition of of the word Annual to the Financial Review Policy. Carried

October: Motion by Trustees Kelly/ Todisco to accept amended Minutes to reflect approval of policies as amended. Carried

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Kelly presented her monthly report.

The discount for electric service related to use of energy from a solar farm will be delayed until Spring 2022 pending a local solar farm coming on line.

All forms have been submitted to receive the remaining \$250.00 due from the NYS Construction Grant to replace the furnace.

Motion of Trustees Schieren/LaRowe to approve the Treasurer's Report. Carried

Director's Report

Director Powhida presented her report, including:

- Update on new furniture for the library: Anonymous Donor has given \$11, 200 for the Circulation Area and will be donating an additional \$6,000 for the staff work area and for needed electrical work. Director Powhida will be contacting Scheriff Electrical for an estimate.
- Upcoming Programs for November and December
- Recap of October 30th Movie Night: Low attendance. Discussion by board to try to publicize more prior to next time to increase attendance.
- Program Coordinator Search: Still interviewing for the position.
- Sexual Harassment Training Certification Forms due from Trustees
- Statistics: Circulation & Patronage

Old Business

1. Fund Raising Letter: Trustee Berner will be putting the letter together.

New Business

1. Discussion Of Governor's Executive Order Chapter 481 requiring meeting documents to be available on request or posted to the public body's website at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. Trustee Leinung will be in touch with Mid-Hudson to clarify.
2. Annual Meeting to be held prior to regular board meeting on 12/20/21. Slate of officers for 2022 needed and two open board positions to be filled for 2022.

Other Business

None

Trustee Concerns

Trustee Leinung - NYLA & MHLS Updates

- NYLA currently reorganizing leadership staff
- We should be aware there has been an increase in challenges to books carried by libraries and we should be prepared for potential challenges.
- The MHLS Trustee Handbook Book Club sessions have been well attended.

Meeting Close

Motion to adjourn by Trustees Kelly/Schieren at 8:00pm. Carried

Next meeting: December 20, 2021

Minutes submitted by Joyce LaRowe