

**VALATIE FREE LIBRARY**  
**Minutes of January 17, 2022 (virtual)**

Meeting came to order at 7:02 pm

Present:

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

Approved absences: Melissa Schieren

Library: Director Elizabeth Powhida

**Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes**

Motion by Trustees Kelly/Leinung to approve the minutes from the Annual Meeting and December Meeting with minor wording changes was passed.

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Kelly presented her end of year final report, as well as the January monthly report, including:

- We raised \$758 dollars so far, from our end-of-year email.
- The alarm system is scheduled for a \$150 upgrade, which is needed due to AT&T's upgrade to 5G in February.

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

**Director's Report**

Director Powhida presented her report, including:

- noted an extra \$100 in fundraising dollars came in on Saturday
- Trustees need to answer sexual harassment questionnaire, if they have not done so this year. It is required annually.
- FYI - the bakery on Main Street is giving a 5% discount to anyone who shows their library card
- 347 patron visits in December
- the Ruth Bader Ginsburg presentation from the New York Historical Society is on Zoom this Wednesday
- new staff member appointed on a probationary term as program coordinator - with intent to hire if his performance is satisfactory
- Motion of Trustees Berner/Leinung to hire Sage Rex on a 6-month probationary term as program coordinator, with intent to hire, was approved.
- one day of electrical work will be required in February to fit electrical outlets around new furniture expected in March
- after a recent storm, Tom Hall hit the platform connected to the shed with his snow plow. We will probably need a new platform in the spring.
- short discussion about what to do with the old library furniture when the new furniture arrives; discussion of donation alternatives
- information about board meetings needs to be posted on the website
  - the meeting minutes should be posted 2 weeks after each meeting
  - The agenda, Treasurer's report, and Director's report should be posted one day in advance of meetings, as well as a link to any online meetings.
- short discussion on grant the Director is writing to collaborate with the Kinderhook Library. it is an Early Learning and Literacy grant sponsored by Berkshire Taconic. If the grant is

received, the libraries will offer a book club for beginning readers. It will involve getting books, craft materials and parent materials.

### **Old Business**

1. Quote on Electrical Work - issues obtaining quotes, but we received a reasonable one and work will be done in February
2. Trustee Opening - if anyone knows someone who may be interested in joining the board, let us know. Director Powhida will put a sign in the library window.
3. 414

Trustee Leinung will be attending legislative meeting on Wednesday and she and another Mid-Hudson trustee will speak about the importance of continuing with the pandemic rule of just needing 30 signatures to get a 414 funding request on the ballot.

the board discussed the need to have a 414 this year, especially to fund hourly staff pay raises required by law

Trustees Berner, Leinung and Kelly agreed to be on the 414 committee for 2022.

### **New Business**

None

### **Other Business**

Short discussion of e-book bill that would allow libraries more access to e-books and why Governor Hochul failed to sign it (there are major copyright issues/illegal).

### **Trustee Concerns**

1. Trustee Leinung - NYLA & MHLS Updates  
In 2023, all board members will be required to complete two hours of board training.  
Sustainable Library Certification Program - four priorities are:
  - member outreach
  - trustee education
  - financial stability
  - diversity, equity and inclusion

### **Meeting Close**

Motion to adjourn by Trustees Kelly/Leinung at 7:55pm carried.

Next meeting: February 21, 2022

Minutes submitted by Kristi Berner.