

VALATIE FREE LIBRARY
Minutes of December 20, 2021 Meeting (in-person)

Meeting came to order following the Annual Meeting – Updated

Present:

Trustees: Emilia Teasdale, Shirley Kelly, Jill Leinung, Meg Todisco, Joyce LaRowe
Excused: Kristi Berner, Sally Hogan, Melissa Schieren

Library: Director Elizabeth Powhida
Lukas Seaman, ICC Participatory Government Class Student Volunteer,

Members of the Public: None

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

November: Motion by Trustees Kelly/Todisco to approve amended November Minutes to reflect Trustee Hogan as Excused and replacing the words front door with furnace in regard to the NYS Construction Grant. Carried

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Kelly presented the monthly financial report.

Income higher than projected due to increased Grant from the HRBT Foundation and decreased expenses due to the impact of Covid.

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

Bank of Greene County Grant Application due in January. Trustee Kelly will include request for funding for electric and lighting upgrades.

Estimate from Scheriff Electrical of \$3,200 for electric upgrade. Trustees Teasdale and Kelly will look into obtaining additional quotes.

Director's Report

Director Powhida presented her report:

Statistics: Circulation & Patronage

New website features: Recite Me and Newsbank

Furniture has been ordered for Circulation Area, Staff Work Area and Table and Chairs for Children's Area. Will need to decide how to handle removal of existing furniture.

Eight ICC Seniors have been volunteering as part of the Participatory Government Class.

Discussion of outreach to ICC Primary School. Trustee Leinung will look into expanding partnership.

Proposed library closed days for 2022 presented.

Motion by Trustees Kelly/Leinung to approve the nine days for the library to be closed in 2022. Carried

Old Business

1. Fund Raising Letter: Trustee Berner working on a fundraising email.
2. Policies : Discussion regarding a need for a review of the Whistleblower and Covid Policies.

New Business

1. Discussion of the MHLS Direct Access Plan which requires Board acceptance. Trustee Todisco would like MHLS to review the Valatie Library Non-Resident Borrower Policy to be sure it is in compliance with MHLS.

Motion by Trustees LaRowe/Leinung to accept the MHLS Direct Access Plan with the recommendation that MHLS reviews Valatie's Non-Resident Borrower Policy. Carried

Trustee Concerns

1. Trustees Leinung and Todisco attended a virtual NYLA presentation on Challenges to Books in the library. Discussion of the increase in challenges and confirmation that the Valatie Library has a policy in place to address challenges.

Executive Session

Motion by Trustees Kelly/LaRowe to enter Executive Session to discuss a Personnel Matter. Carried

No formal action was taken.

Motion by Trustees Kelly/LaRowe to exit Executive Session. Carried

Meeting Close

Motion to adjourn by Trustees Kelly/Schieren at 8:30 pm. Carried

Next meeting: January 17,2022

Minutes submitted by Joyce LaRowe