

**VALATIE FREE LIBRARY**  
**Minutes of March 28, 2022**

Meeting came to order at 7:01 pm.

Present:

Trustees: Emilia Teasdale, Shirley Kelly, Meg Todisco, Kristi Berner, Melissa Schieren

Excused absences: Jill Leinung, Sally Hogan

Library: Director Elizabeth Powhida

**Public Comment**

Two candidates for the board introduced themselves to the current board, Karen Roberts Mort from Ghent and Vivian Becker from Valatie.

**Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes**

Motion by Trustees Kelly/Todisco to approve the minutes from the February meeting was passed.

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Kelly presented the February monthly report, including:

- Amazon Smile is activated
- \$2,000 Early Literacy grant received from Berkshire Taconic Foundation- must be spent on early literacy only

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

**Director's Report**

**March stats**

- \$600 left in Kanopy account (donated)
- can print museum passes online, except for the Empire Pass, must be picked up online
- new assistant Stephanie Smith
- Danielle Brown is s program coordinator
- working out contracts with performers for summer programs
- working on April & May programs for Mother's Day and Father's Day, etc.
- Use of Building increasing
  - 3 tutors currently
  - Mahjong group on Friday mornings at 10:30am
- computer repair completed
- Upcoming Maintenance
  - Electrical updating - April 6th at 8:30am, library will remain open
  - Furnace cleaning - April 8th (possibly 10am to 12pm), library will remain open
- Early learning and literacy grant
  - Elizabeth will be working with Church Street Preschool, Little Falls Kinder day care, and Spanish-speaking preschoolers in the area
- MiSci grant - April 7, April 14, May 5th - MiSci will come to Primary School for 6 classes, programs chosen by teachers, program will take place during Director Powhida's time slots

- Annual Report to the Community presented -will be added to the library website
- Mask requirement
  - Masks -the last two weeks, since Governor Hochul and CDC removed mask requirement, patrons less patient with wearing masks.
  - Director Powhida says the staff OK with patrons not wearing masks, but the staff will keep their masks on
  - Director Powida will post a sign that says: “masks are encouraged, but not required,” when weather is warmer.

A motion by Trustees Kelly/ Schieren to hire Stephanie Smith as a Library Assistant carried.

### **Old Business**

1. Trustee opening - see Public Comments
2. Policy/Bylaws - committee is setting up a meeting
3. 414- discussion about adding funding request to November 2022 ballot
  - Trustee Kelly recently attended an informative seminar on the 414 process
  - the 414 committee (Trustees Kelly, Berner and Leinung) will meet before the board's next monthly meeting

### **New Business**

1. Used furniture
  - A new circulation and other furniture will arrive in June. The board had a discussion about what to do with the current furniture that is being replaced.
  - Trustee Schieren will take the lead to list the furniture on social media and other local websites to attempt the sell the furniture.

### **Other Business**

None.

### **Trustee Concerns**

Trustee Todisco provided an update on a Trustee handbook webinar she attended recently regarding facilities.

### **NYLA and MHLS Updates**

None.

### **Executive Session**

The board went into executive session for 10 minutes.

### **After Executive Session**

The board voted to add Valatie resident Vivian Becker to the board.

**Meeting Close**

Motion to adjourn by Trustees Berner/Schieren at 8:25pm carried.

Next meeting: April 25, 2022

Minutes submitted by Kristi Berner.