

VALATIE FREE LIBRARY
Minutes of January 16, 2023

Meeting came to order at 7:00 pm

Present:

Trustees: Emilia Teasdale, Shirley Kelly, Kristi Berner, Jill Leinung, Meg Todisco, Melissa Schieren, Laura Rogers, Vivian Becker
Library: Director Amanda Mesas
Excused absence: None

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Motion by Trustees Leinung/Kelly to approve the minutes from the December meeting — with minor changes— carried.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Kelly presented the January 2023 monthly report, as well as the profit and loss budget for all of 2022.

Discussion about the cost of the newsletter, prompted by a bill from the Post Office.

Discussion about adding information about Library events to the Village of Valatie water bill.

Motion by Trustees Berner/Becker to approve the Treasurer's Report — with changes to postage and newsletter expenses — carried.

Director's Report

- Director Mesas presented the December library statistics.
- The hanging of the paintings around the library is complete.
- The static IP is working
- Annual report training for new Directors with Mid-Hudson is January 25
- Director Mesas will meet with former Directors Powhida for training later in the month.

Old Business

1. Planter/Bike Rack:

President Teasdale spoke to Ron Rich again about the new bike rack. He provided information about a smaller “grid” rack with will hold 5 bikes. The cost is \$349. Fran Fullerton donated \$1,000 for the rack, so there was discussion about adding a bench near the trail with the additional funds. We need to look into prices for a bench.

Ron Rich is graciously donating his labor for installing the bike rack, as well as the cost of the concrete to set it in the ground.

A motion to accept Ron’s recommendation for a bike rake and possible bench by Trustees Kelly/Becker carried.

2. Plan for summer fundraiser

Discussion about a summer book sale and/or fundraising letter, with a reminder that library programs are free and open to anyone.

Discussion about items we have for the book sale - popup tent and table in the shed.

Discussion about ordering more Valatie Library book bags to sell. They were popular when the library sold them a few years ago.

3. Policy review

Trustee Todisco did a great job of spearheading the updating of the public-facing polices last year.

Our next step is to review the internal library polices — starting with the by laws, and then moving onto employee policies.

The policy committee will meet at the library on Thursday, January 26th at 1pm.

The policy committee is Trustees Todisco (chair), Becker, Teasdale, Kelly.

4. Update on building issues

Trustee Kelly reported that Dan, our handyman, has fixed the ramp to the shed. He is ordering a new bulb for a ceiling light.

Dan placed the old bookcases on the road, and they were taken away within 24 hours.

We received a bill for the refrigerator repair.

A note: each Trustee is now required by Mid-Hudson to take 2 hours or training each year, either online or in person. The list of classes and sign-ups are available on the Mid-Hudson website.

New Business

None.

Other Business

None.

Trustee Concerns

Update on Little Libraries project

Vice President Leinung reported that NYLA Advocacy Day is Feb. 28th. Appointments with legislators are hybrid. Keep your eye on the Mid-Hudson website for more information.

There is a new government relations person for libraries.

There is a new chairman of the State Senate Library Committee — Senator Chu.

Calvarak Library has a “Bring Your Child to the Library Day” on Feb. 4th.

There is a NYLA Youth Advocacy Committee webinar on Feb. 9th.

Mid-Hudson Trustee meeting on Thursday, January 19th in Poughkeepsie.

Executive Session

none

Meeting Close

Motion to adjourn by Trustees Kelly/Leinung at 8:39pm carried.

Next meeting: February 20, 2023 at 7pm.

Minutes submitted by Kristi Berner.