

**VALATIE FREE LIBRARY
Minutes of June 19, 2023**

Meeting came to order at 7:02 pm

Present:

Trustees: Emilia Teasdale, Shirley Kelly, Kristi Berner, Jill Leinung, Meg Todisco, Melissa Schieren, Laura Rogers, Vivian Becker
Library Director (Acting): Mimi Johnson
Excused absence: None

Public Comment

No public comments.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Motion by Trustees Leinung/Todisco to approve the minutes from the May meeting, with minor edits, carried.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Kelly presented the May 2023 monthly report, including:

- National Grid bill - our rate per hour has gone up from .11 to .28 per kw hour, and we're overspending out budget due to the increase.
- Treasurer Kelly called National Grid and the library was given a new rate of .13 per kw hour, and they are sending the library a \$170.00 rebate. Carol in the rate department suggested the library call every three months to check on the rate.
- National Grid has also been charging the library tax. Treasurer Kelly is sending in a tax rebate form and NG will take off the 8% tax going forward.
- Newspaper costs: The Register Star bill has increased from \$260 to \$350/year. We will continue for now as many patrons enjoy reading the physical paper.
- President Teasdale suggested, that in our next fundraising letter, we could mention that newspaper subscriptions and internet costs going up.

Motion by Trustees Becker/Leinung to approve the Treasurer's Report carried.

Director's Report

Acting Director Mimi Johnson presented the May Director's Report.

May stats

- 693 patron visits
- circulation of physical items - 1,127

Other updates

- printers are currently working
- summer programs are listed on Facebook and our website
- The "All Together Now" Reading Challenge has started. Sign up is on the website, including for the end of summer party.
- Stewarts has donated 52 single scoop cone certificates but it will be necessary to purchase at least another 100 certificates.
- the board discussed getting other establishments to donate ice cream.
- story hour is well attended and we are working on improving presentation of stories and age appropriateness of materials and crafts.

Old Business

1. Plan for summer fundraiser/book sale - President Teasdale emailed Vera about Valatie events. The board will be at the July 15th event on Main Street and will sell the book bags then. We did not commit to Octoberfest on Main Street.
2. Bike rack and Little Library
 - a. the bike rack company did not respond to Treasurer Kelly's most recent inquiries. So we will start the search process again. Once we know how much the bike rack costs, we can order a bench with the remaining donated funds.
 - b. President Teasdale has not heard back from the high school shop teacher who is building the Little Library.

New Business

1. Library website - the board discussed how difficult it is to update the Library website. The Word Press program seems to outdated. VP Leinung will contact Mid-Hudson about why the libraries aren't using the latest software available.
2. President Teasdale talked to our new Director, Kelly Kranick, and she is excited to start work on July 5th. She will come in on June 26th and meet with Acting-Director Johnson.

A motion by Trustees Kelly/Becker to hire Kelly Kranick for 25 hours a week at \$23.08 /hour with a start date of July 5th, carried.

3. Summer meetings - we will keep our regular schedule of meetings. The board will review the dates for monthly meetings at the end of the year when the calendar is set, keeping Monday holidays in mind.
4. Trusted Schieran and her son Ethan are donating a slightly-used Nintendo Switch to the library. We believe this will help bring tweens/teens to the library. Thank you Melissa and Ethan!

A motion by Trustees Kelly/Becker to spend \$300 for controllers and accessories for the Switch, to make it accessible to a wide-variety of gamers, carried.

Executive Session

A motion by Trustees Berner/Schieren to go into executive session to discuss personnel issues carried at 8:19 m.

A motion by Trustees Kelly/Leinung to come out of executive session carried at 8:27pm.

Other Business

A motion by Trustees Becker/Kelly to restructure the library staff to meet the library's professional needs with a Library Director, Assistant Director and Clerks, carried.

Trustee Concerns

None.

Meeting Close

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

Next meeting: June 17th at 7pm.

Minutes submitted by Kristi Berner.