

The Claverack Free Library

9 Route 9H

Claverack, NY 12513

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

September 15, 2022

Trustees Present: Mame Bradley, Audre Higbee, Stephanie Keyser, Stephen King, Julie Nack, Jenny Post, Susan Roberts, Vicki Rosenwald, Susan Soltano

Also Present: Thea Schoep, Library Director; Paula Ptaszek, Friends Board Liaison; Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Executive Director, MHLS

- 1) The meeting was called to order by President Stephen King at 6:01 p.m.
- 2) **Minutes of the board meeting of 8/18/2022 were approved. Motion to approve made by Vicki; second by Mame. Motion carried.**
- 3) Treasurer's Report Susan & Marion (report and financial statements submitted)
- 4) Director's Report-Thea (report submitted)
 - i) Battle of the Books Sectionals on Saturday September 10th was well attended.
 - ii) Thea added that the community puzzle is drawing additional traffic to the library.
- 5) Friends Report - Paula (Alice submitted draft minutes from September 12th meeting)
 - i) Paula reported that Dave Baylen has proposed a more modern podium. The Friends are exploring options to be certain that QUESTAR can build it.
 - ii) Book Sale update: there will be no food tent due to a shortage of volunteers and tent space on the lawn. The community room will house art and better books. A discussion followed of the possibility of serving coffee under the pergola (weather and volunteer help permitting).
- 6) Committee Reports-
 - A) Nominating – Vicki and Jenny
 - i) Two individuals have been identified as potential trustees and/or committee members. The nominating committee will follow up with them prior to nomination.
 - B) Building and Grounds-Julie (report submitted)
 - i) Julie has received an additional quote for painting the exterior of the former library. She awaits one more bid before making a recommendation to proceed with the job. It is likely that it will not be done until 2023.
 - ii) Drainage and additional parking work now will commence the week of September 19th.
 - iii) Julie was thanked for addressing interior lighting issues in the former library.

C) Communications - Jenny

- i) Jenny reported that bookmarks have been designed to remind library patrons and supporters of the 414 vote on November 8th
- ii) A discussion followed of a campaign to contact likely supporters in the weeks preceding the election.

D) Development - Mame (no report)

E) Human Resources-Audre (no report)

- i) Audre mentioned that First Amendment Rights activists have visited her office in Catskill and that it is wise to be prepared and have a plan to handle the possibility. Thea noted that the library has policies in place to protect certain patron rights.
- ii) Audre also reported that the committee continues to work on the director's job description and evaluation to assure a better match.

F) Programs-Vicki (report submitted)

- i) Vicki highlighted upcoming programs and encouraged trustees and Friends to attend the Hip-Hop program with Loki on Sunday, September 17th.

G) Technology-Mario (report submitted)

- i) Tony Marino switched out a faulty mixer with one of his own and will check on the warranty for replacement.
- ii) The committee and Thea continue to try to get a response from General Security regarding the library's Datto equipment warranty and support contract.

H) History Committee-Julie (no report submitted)

- i) Julie reported that the next meeting will be held on Monday, September 26.
- ii) She also noted that the scanner has returned to the library.

7) Public Comments

No public comments

8) New Business

- A) Rebekkah Smith Aldrich gave general background on the process of expanding the library's charter to include Taghkanic, which is unserved by a chartered library. A change of charter itself is relatively straightforward and involves things such as a change of service area and trustee representation. But it would require 414 referenda in that town. Rebekkah cautioned that the "political" ramifications make this change more complicated.

Rather than pursue expansion at present, Stephen suggested that the library work up data to support the disparity between what Claverack and Taghkanic taxpayers pay for library services – Thea has made a good start on this – and that several library representatives (Thea and Sue and others?) take a clear set of numbers to a pre-budget meeting in Taghkanic to ask for additional funding from Taghkanic.

Rebekkah then explained another possibility: a Special District designation. This is fairly complicated and would require a great deal of trust-building and collaboration with impacted libraries.

Rebekkah was thanked for her time and expertise in advising us, then she took a moment to comment on the value of Thea's contributions to the Directors Committee at MHLS.

9) Old Business: Review of the Three-Year Strategic Plan

Jenny requested that all trustees revisit the plan and forward any suggestions or comments to the ad hoc committee of Audre, Stephanie, Susan, and Jenny prior to the October meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m. **Motion to adjourn made by Audre and second by Jenny. Motion carried.**

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Thursday, October 20, 2022, at 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Post

Secretary