

68 WEST MARKET STREET

RHINEBECK, NY 12572

NOTICE OF MEETING Monday August 23, 2021, 5:30 PM

[“Starr Library provides access to the highest quality library services and programming, enriching our lives and building community.”](#)

**Trustees Present:** David Lavallee, Kat Melo, Shea Dean, Donna Warner, Martha Gershun, Karen Unger, Craig Oleszewski, Madhu Tadikonda, Laura Selicaro and Director Stephen Cook

**Friends Representative:** Stephen Frost

[Meeting called to order at 5:35pm.](#)

I. Call to order and review of agenda

a. David Lavallee mentioned that we have a new system in place to gather committee reports and agenda items in advance. Both should be sent to Shea via Google Form a week before the board meeting.

II. Secretary’s Report-Minutes from June meeting

a. Move to accept the June minutes: Craig. Second: Kat. Passed unanimously

III. Treasurer’s Report – spreadsheets sent separately with agenda

a. David said that finances are in good shape. He said that we are reviewing our liability insurance.

i. Motion to accept the treasurer’s report: Madhu. Second Kat. Passed unanimously.

IV. Director’s Report – sent separately with agenda

a. Stephen said that they have three new part-time student pages after the two previous ones went back to college.

b. We also have a teen tech help person whom we are seeking to make permanent after getting good reviews from patrons.

c. Stephen mentioned that with Andrew Cuomo’s resignation tonight, he has reached out to the MHLS to get special district status so that we might have more sustainable funding. Such efforts have been vetoed by the governor twice in the past. Stephen said that special district status would mean that the library’s funding would be streamlined without the need for a 414 vote. David mentioned that the Board of Trustees would be

elected by the public. Donna asked whether it would make us eligible for low-rate municipal bonds. Craig suggested that this was the case, but Stephen wasn't certain.  
d. Stephen discussed the website. He provided a link to the revamped site in beta form for the trustees to look at. He encouraged us to provide corrections and suggestions.

Donna asked that we have a specific time frame for providing such suggestions. Stephen that he would agree to tell us.

e. Donna also asked about the money we got through Dutchess County to fund some things for kids including a story walk and a movable stage. Stephen said that they are still waiting for the funding.

V. Friends Report

a. Stephen reported that the previous book sale netted \$5,160, and that the book sales in the library had netted \$238 and that membership drive had generated \$3,385. Next book sale is scheduled for October 22 and 23, and December book sale is December 10 and 11.

VI. Claims and Warrants- David provided a copy for Board members to review.

a. Motion to approve payments of claims and warrants: Martha. Second, Karen. Passed unanimously.

Standing Committee Reports

VII.

a. **Buildings and Grounds:** Donna (chair) referred the trustees to the report submitted prior to the meeting. Parking lot lights are set to be installed in mid-October. Donna reported that process issues are being worked out, including the fact that any *permanent* changes to the interior, exterior or grounds are brought to the whole board for review before enactment by staff.

b. **Nominating:** Donna is resigning from the nominating committee and as chair and asked that someone else take over as chair.

Karen suggested combining the Personnel and Nominating committees as an item of discussion. David said that this might be done when the governance committee reviews the bylaws regarding the names and responsibilities of standing committees. David said that bylaw review should be done soon. Donna pointed out that there is no committee that oversees programming; Shea asked whether such a committee could be formed; Martha suggested that the director's report provide more information about upcoming programming. Stephen agreed to do that.

c. **Long Range Plan.** Donna (chair) reported that the committee has been split: one ad hoc committee to continue to work on and implement the LRP document (five-year plan) and another committee to work on the plans for building renovation / expansion. Donna encouraged every committee chair to review the document and to revise the section based on what they see in other sections. Shea and Martha will edit the document, then

it will go to the whole board for comments and changes. The next step would be a board-staff meeting to review the timelines and objectives. A discussion ensued about the two committees.

d. **Fundraising:** Karen reported that we got a Dutchess County grant of \$25,000 (see director's report) that was reported today in the *Kingston Freeman*. Stephen reported to the Rhinebeck Town Board in July proposing the 414 vote. Karen mentioned that there are four RFPs for additional grants.

e. **PR** – Shea mentioned that the committee is working to promote the library by making current programs and initiatives more visible.

III. Correspondence - none.

IX. Old Business

A. Committee Assignments and Responsibilities – see attachment 2

a. Board members went through the committee assignments.

B. Trustee terms – Chart sent separately with agenda

a. We went over the Excel sheet showing the lengths of the existing terms and when the current trustees' terms will expire.

X. New Business

A. Mask mandate – Stephen asked board to pass a motion allowing Stephen to require masks in the building if CDC guidelines suggest it.

Motion to support Stephen in following CDC recommendations Karen. Second Craig. Passed unanimously.

Donna makes a motion to authorize up to \$5,000 for tent rental. Second, Shea. Passed unanimously.

Move to adjourn: Craig. Second, Kat. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:07pm.

Next Meeting Date: Monday, September 23, 5:30 PM