

STARR LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

68 WEST MARKET STREET

RHINEBECK, NY 12572

NOTICE OF MEETING Monday September 27, 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, Shea Dean, Donna Warner, Craig Oleszewski, Madhu Tadikonda, Laura Selicaro and Director Stephen Cook

Trustees Absent: Kat Melo, Martha Gershun, Karen Unger

Friends Representative: Stephen Frost

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

- I. Call to order and review of agenda.
- II. Secretary’s Report-Minutes from August meeting
Motion to accept the minutes: Laura. Second, Madhu. Passed unanimously.
- III. Treasurer’s Report – attached

David reported that Madhu, the incoming Treasurer, will take over treasurer’s responsibilities after getting all . Motion to accept treasurer’s report: Donna. Second, Laura. Passed unanimously.
- IV. Director’s Report – attached.

Stephen Cook reported that circulation numbers are rising, especially ebooks. He said that he’s been investing more money in ebooks. Stephen reported on the progress on the new website, which has been continuing since February. Rowan Willigan, part-time staffer, has been spending most of her hours implementing changes from the board. The board discussed setting a launch date. Stephen suggested before election day. Shea suggested getting it done before the next board meeting, which Stephen said he would shoot for.
- V. Friends’ Report

Stephen Frost said there was a meeting on the 22nd where they approved giving \$1,500 for more large-print books to the library and a second \$10,000 donation

to Starr for general book purchase. He said that the next book sale is Fri and Sat, Oct 22 and 23. He said that they had a lot of donations and would use the boardroom for art books and the tent for free books, especially kids' books. Mary Olivera said that they appreciate trustees volunteering and buying books at the sale.

VI. Claims and Warrants-Motion to approve payments of claims and warrants

Claims and warrants are covered in Treasurer's report. Motion to accept Claims and warrants: Donna. Second, Craig. Approved unanimously.

VII. Standing Committee Reports – Attached

Buildings and Grounds: Stephen reported that we are still working on replacing outdoor lighting, that they got the fixtures and tried a 52-watt bulb that was too bright; they will use a 26-watt bulb instead and the 52-watt bulb out by the entrance. We can use the same poles. Craig asked if the bulbs were dimmable; Stephen said he'd check. Donna reported that dimmable bulbs are in short supply.

PR - Madhu asked about the cost of the LFLs. Stephen said they were about \$2500 each. We are waiting on Dutchess County for funding for the two additional LFLs.

VIII. Correspondence

Stephen reported that we got a check for \$1,943 from the state, representing 90 percent of the state's contribution to the library. The other 10 percent will come later. We received a generous bequest of \$10,000 from a former trustee -- \$5,200 to kick off the annual appeal and the rest for the endowment.

IX. Old Business

A. 414 vote – Fundraising and PR committees joint meeting

PR Committee chair Shea said that she was going to price out lawn signs and put together a flyer for the 414 vote by the end of the week. Donna offered to share her list of point people for other local groups with email lists, so that they can also share our 414 promotion message. Mary Olivera suggested handing out flyers on the Saturday before the vote at the transfer station. Shea suggested handing out flyers at the Farmer's Market.

B. LRP committee split into monitoring group and building modification committee.

One group will monitor the implementation of the LRP document; adjust deadlines and assess how well goals are being met. A second group will deal

with the expansion plans, and a third group will head up the capital campaign (Reimagining Starr).

Paul Mays meeting was set for October 21, 8:30 AM. He will present his most recent drawings for the expansion. David reminded board members to go back and review the first three drawings and our responses to them; he and Shea said that we would email them to everyone in a week or so.

X. New Business

A. Social gathering for Board and Staff members

David proposed having a social after hours so that trustees could meet. A Friday at 5pm. Stephen promised to invite everyone on the payroll and send out a Doodle Poll to find a date for this in the next month or so.

B. Advantages and Disadvantages of Library Designations (esp. Special District Library)

Stephen discussed Starr's two previous efforts to pursue switching from being an association library to creating a special district that would allow Starr to be on the ballot every year and get more continuous funding. Both efforts were vetoed by Gov. Andrew Cuomo and have kept any other library from pursuing such status. Stephen is looking into whether Governor Hochul would be more open to allowing us to seek special district status. David said we would distribute more information about the different kinds of libraries and we would discuss it at the next board meeting.

C. MHLS trustee trainings; handbook book club; bylaw review

XI. Reports of Ad Hoc Committees

A. Building Committee - Meeting with Paul Mays on October 21.

B. Long-range Planning Committee

Donna shared documents about the nearly finished LRP; she discussed different ways that it can be sorted, and what the committees need to do to get their goals / deadlines in line with reality (many deadlines have already passed). She said she would put all these documents on a share drive. One area that someone needs to own is *volunteer development*. Perhaps there'd be a way to train a pool of "substitute" workers who can work the circulation desk when staff are out or sick, so as not to take staff away from their assigned jobs. Another that needs development is *Reimagine Starr 2025*. Donna also proposed having a staff-trustee meeting soon to set priorities for coming years.

Motion to adjourn, Craig. Second Madhu. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.

Next Meeting Date October 25, 5:30 PM