

68 WEST MARKET STREET

RHINEBECK, NY 12572

NOTICE OF MEETING Monday June 28, 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, and Director Stephen Cook

**Trustees Absent:** Laura Selicaro

**Friends Representative:** Stephen Frost

Call to order: 5:41pm

- I. Election of President and Remarks of New President
  - a. Donna nominated David Lavallee as the new board new president, second Craig. Martha said that David would make a great president and Donna said that he has excellent experience. Craig noted David’s dedication to the library and his service on the board. Karen added that David has done a great job taking care of finances as treasurers. Motion passed unanimously.
  - b. David talked about his approach to committee meetings. He said that he wants to give everyone a chance to speak and that he didn’t want to hold contentious votes. He said that he’d prefer to table matters where we are not at consensus. He said that he felt it important that everyone get a chance to speak before people get a second chance. He said he felt that it’s important to operate on the assumption that everyone on the board has good intentions.
  
- II. Introductions
  - a. Board members introduced themselves to Madhu, the newest board member.
  
- III. Secretary’s Report-Minutes from May meeting
  - a. Motion to provisionally accept the May minutes (just sent) Martha, Second Karen. Passed unanimously.
  
- IV. Treasurer’s Report
  - a. David explained his process of putting together his monthly reports. He also said that he meets with the bookkeeper, Dagmar, every other week. An accountant also looks over every payment and expense. He said we have an audit every year for tax purposes and another broader one every five years to monitor the financial health of the organization. David mentioned that we are looking to move the endowment from Wells Fargo to a company that charges lower fees, like Fidelity or Vanguard. Motion to accept Craig, second Karen. Passed unanimously.
  
- V. Director’s Report
  - a. Stephen requested that the Board allocate money for Assistant Director Brooke Stevens to enroll in the Public Library Administrator’s Certificate Program starting in the fall. The program is five courses over five semesters at \$1550 each. Motion to fund this program for Brooke. Second Martha. Passed unanimously.

VI. Friend's Report

- a. Stephen Frost reported that the Friends would have their first in-person meeting since January 2020. Book sales are coming up in August, October and December.

VII. Claims and Warrants

- a. Motion to approve the claims and warrants Karen. Second, Martha. Passed unanimously.

VIII. Standing Committee Reports

- a. Fundraising: Karen reported that they had a meeting with the Friends to talk about how the board's fundraising committee can work more closely with the Friends. They talked about sending out an appeal for the 414 vote. She said they thought about doing a "thank the donor" event in October – perhaps an auction in person. Mary Olivera from the Friends has some antique etchings of local interest she would donate for auction, but they need frames. They also talked about promoting the Mary Miller Society – talking to estate planners about putting Starr in their wills. Karen also mentioned that there is money from the American Rescue Plan for libraries, nonprofits and sports organizations to spend money on kids' equipment and activities. The money is disbursed first come first served starting in two days, so Karen said she'd start a Google Doc to field ideas.
- b. PR – Shea said that the PR committee had a draft of its goals for the Long Range Plan and are seeking to finalize them this week.
- c. Buildings and Grounds – Craig reported that Dave's Tree service cleared \$4000 worth of trees. His son is still working on his tree inventory for his Boy Scout merit badge. Lines have been painted in the parking lot. Dave Long Electric has repaired two of the damaged lights but we are still down four large lampposts. Donna has agreed to come back to the Buildings and Grounds committee which will reconsider the plan for the new lampposts. Motion to ensure that any workers on the library grounds have necessary insurance Martha; second Donna. Passed unanimously.

X. New Business

A. Replacement of Other Officers and Committee Members.

- a. Donna nominated Karen to be vice president; Second Kat. Passed unanimously. Karen Unger is the new vice president.
- b. Martha moves to elect Madhu as the new treasurer. Second Craig. Passed unanimously. Madhu is the new treasurer.

B. Motion to resume regular operations of the Library (post pandemic)

- a. Stephen requests a motion to roll back COVID restrictions at the library. Donna moved to do so. Second Karen. Passed unanimously.

C. Resolutions in preparation for 414 vote.

- a. Stephen proposed that the board of trustees vote to override the 2 percent tax cap for the purpose of our fiscal budget. Motion to override the tax cap, Karen Unger. Second Martha Gershun. Passed unanimously.
- b. Stephen presented a tentative budget that he drew up with David Lavallee. Motion to adopt the budget Donna Warner; second Karen Unger. Passed unanimously.
- c. Stephen proposed to Conduct a '414 Vote' this November 2. Move to endorse a 414 proposition Martha Gershun. Second, Karen Unger. Passed unanimously.

XI. Reports of Ad Hoc Committees

- A. Building Committee – Donna reported that the LRP met with Paul Mays in early June and looked at and commented on three preliminary drawings. The committee agreed that expansion is the best option, represented only by the one of the three drawings. The committee also agreed not to commit to any of those drawings. The committee agreed that they wanted to create a building that inspires and that fits with the village (not just with the 2005 addition). The plan is to convey these ideas to Paul Mays and to have him draw up more plans that represent a more exciting expansion and redesign.
- B. Long-range Planning Committee – Donna reported that the committee has been working to complete the five-year long range planning document by August. She proposed having a vision meeting where we decide as a board the direction we'd like to take in the next 5 years.

Motion to adjourn Karen, Second Craig. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.

Next meeting date August 30, 2021, 5:30pm.