

STARR LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

68 WEST MARKET STREET

RHINEBECK, NY 12572

NOTICE OF MEETING Thursday, February 27, 2025, 5:30 PM

Trustees Present: Jay Burgess, Erin Humbaugh, Valerie Jacob, Mimi Joh-Carnella, Al Ragucci, Jim Ruderman, Laura Selicaro, Eve Wood, and Director Jaclyn Savolainen. Andrew Schulkind and Laura Charles were absent and provided apologies. Stephen Frost attended on behalf of The Friends as its President and Representative.

I. Call to order and review of agenda: Eve, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

II. Public Comment Period

No comments.

III. Minutes from the January meeting: Valerie noted that there were no comments on the draft minutes. A motion was made to approve the minutes, which motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Eve and Jaclyn presented the report for the month of January. Financial information for such period was provided to the Trustees in advance of the meeting. Jaclyn welcomed Cynthia Chiarella who joined the Starr Library as bookkeeper. Jaclyn updated the Board on the balances in the different bank and investment accounts and reported that the annual funds from the town based on tax receipts had been received. A discussion ensued, and all questions asked were appropriately answered. A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's Report, which motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

V. Friends Report

Stephen reported on behalf of The Friends that they were preparing for the next book sale to be held on April 4/5. He noted that The Friends has been gathering a great collection of art books. He further noted that the next Friends meeting was scheduled for March 19, 2025 at 1 p.m.

VI. Director's Report

Jaclyn then provided the Director's report which had been previously provided to the Trustees in advance of the meeting. Jaclyn noted that attendance was strong during the month of January. She highlighted certain very popular January programs, including the writing workshops which continue to have waiting lists for patrons and the Pilates courses. Programs in February included Madagascar Connect Presentation and the New Historia (Women's History), among others set forth in the Director's Report. She noted, as in the January Report, that the Library has signed a contract to add Kanopy streaming service to the Library's digital collection which has now become "live". She also informed the Trustees that certain restrictions were being implemented for patrons' use of the Hoopla service given Hoopla's pricing model which has been causing costs to escalate.

Jaclyn then noted for the Trustees certain upcoming events in March, including the Opening Reception for Art Show by Christine Livesey, a member of the Starr Library staff, to be held on March 7th, the Samantha Hunt lecture to be held on March 13th, and the Book Event with James Gurney to be held on March 26th which celebrates the reissuance of a new edition of "The Artists Guide to Sketching" by James Gurney and Thomas Kinkade.

Jaclyn then discussed the highlights of the Starr Library's Annual Report to New York State, which highlights were distributed to the Trustees in advance of the meeting. A discussion ensued, and all questions asked were appropriately answered. A motion was made to approve the Annual Report, which motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Statistics for the month of January were included in the Director's Report.

A further discussion ensued among the Trustees about the above topics and the Director's report. All questions asked were appropriately answered.

VII. Claims and Warrants

Jaclyn presented the report to the Board. A motion was made to approve the claims and warrants, which motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

VIII. Committee Reports

Fundraising Committee: The minutes of the last meeting of the Fundraising Committee were distributed to the Trustees in advance of the meeting. Erin reported on the recent Committee meeting and noted that the Committee recommends to the Trustees that the Trustees approve an override to the annual tax levy cap. A discussion ensued, and all questions asked were appropriately answered. Erin then noted to the Trustees that the Committee was reviewing the Starr Library's website and the ability, through the website, to donate to the Starr Library. She also informed the Trustees that the Committee has been preparing its considerations for a formal fundraising program and receiving information on capital campaigns. Erin has also been attending workshops on various related topics. Lastly, she noted that she is also inquiring further on municipal bond financing for the proposed expansion and will report back to the Trustees in the future. A further discussion ensued, and all questions asked were appropriately answered.

Building & Grounds Committee: The minutes from the Committee's last meeting were distributed to the Trustees in advance of the meeting. Al presented the report of the Committee. Al noted that the Committee was focused on repairs and replacements needed in the near future. A discussion ensued, and all questions asked were appropriately answered.

Expansion Committee: Laura Selicaró reported on the status of discussions with Skolnick. A discussion ensued, and all questions asked were appropriately answered. The Trustees discussed with Jaclyn next steps and asked her to continue discussing with Skolnick the goals of the Trustees and the completion of Skolnick's report.

Public Relations Committee: The minutes of the last meeting of the PR Committee were distributed to the Trustees in advance of the meeting. Jay discussed that the Committee has been working on how best to present Starr Library to the Library's various constituencies. Jay and Jim then lead a discussion of a draft written statement distributed to the Trustees prior to the meeting setting forth the Starr Library's Mission and Vision Statement. A discussion ensued, and all questions asked were appropriately addressed. A motion was made to approve the statement, which motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Concert Committee: Mimi updated the Trustees on the status of the Concert Committee's efforts to schedule performances for the next season. She noted that all performers had been selected, and that the members of the Concert Committee were completing the Committee's budget.

IX. Correspondence

Jaclyn noted that the Library received a very complimentary letter from the President of Rhinebeck at Home expressing appreciation for our partnership in programming for seniors.

X. Old Business

- A. Vulnerable Adults Policy Guidelines: Jaclyn noted that the Vulnerable Adults Policy Guidelines had been distributed to the Trustees previously and discussed at the last meeting. A motion was made to approve the Policy, which motion was seconded and unanimously approved.
- B. Building Project: Eve noted the prior discussion in the context of the report of the Expansion Committee. Eve then further noted that in light of the anticipated work which will be required as the Library continues to explore its expansion options, expertise from a number of areas will be required. She then proposed to the Trustees the creation of a new working group called the Building Project Working Group which would include Jay (from the PR Committee), Al (from the Buildings and Ground Committee), Laura Selicaro (from the Expansion Committee) and Erin (from the Fundraising Committee), with Jaclyn as Chair. The mandate of such Working Group would be to discuss and consider next steps as the Starr Library reviews and decides on its options for expansion of the Starr Library space. A motion was made to approve the Building Project Working Group, which motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

XI. New Business

Jaclyn then noted that Cynthia Chiarella introduced earlier in the meeting has started as the Starr Library's new bookkeeper. The Trustees welcomed Cynthia to the Library Staff. A motion was made to approve and ratify her appointment, which motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Jaclyn then noted that the Annual Report had been approved earlier in the meeting.

Erin then led a discussion about holding an annual fundraiser for the Library and updating the Trustees on prior discussions on timing, location, and theme. A discussion ensued, and all questions asked were appropriately answered.

Jaclyn then led a discussion of the possibility of overriding the annual tax levy cap. Background materials were distributed to the Trustees in advance of the meeting. Jaclyn noted that NY State recommends that 90% of a library's operating budget be funded by tax dollars. The Starr Library is currently at approximately 74%, well below that recommendation, and below the average for Mid-Hudson libraries, which average is 88%. A discussion ensued, and all questions asked were appropriately answered. Jaclyn further noted the required resolutions to be adopted by the Trustees. A motion was made to approve the resolutions on Appendix A, which motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

XII. Public Comment Period

None.

XIII. Executive Session

None.

XIV. Adjournment

There being no other business to conduct, a motion was made to adjourn, which motion was seconded and unanimously approved at 7:30 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: March 27, 5:30 p.m.

APPENDIX A

Whereas, the adoption of the 2026 budget for the Starr Library may require a tax levy increase that exceeds the tax cap imposed by state law as outlined in General Municipal Law Section 3-c adopted in 2011; and

Whereas, General Municipal Law Section 3-c expressly permits the Starr Library Board of Trustees to override the tax levy limit by a resolution approved by a vote of sixty percent of qualified board members; now therefore be it:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Starr Library vote and approve to exceed the tax levy limit for 2026 by at least sixty percent of the Board of Trustees as required by state law on February 27, 2025.