

## STARR LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

68 W. Market Street  
Rhinebeck, NY 12572

### MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 26, 2026, 5:30 P.M.

**Trustees Present:** Jay Burgess, Laura Charles, Heather Dubuque, Erin Humbaugh, Mimi Joh-Carnella, Tom Mendl, Al Ragucci, Jim Ruderman, Laura Selicaro, Andrew Schulkind, and Director Jaclyn Savolainen. Stephen Frost attended the meeting on behalf of The Friends.

1. Call to Order and Review of Agenda: Andrew, president of the board, called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.
2. Public Comment Period: There were no comments.
3. Secretary's Report: Jay noted that there were no comments on the draft minutes previously distributed to the trustees. A motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.
4. Treasurer's Report: Jim presented the report for February. Financial information for the month was advanced to the trustees. Jim reported that financial results to date continue to show more expenses than income. He noted that the voter-approved \$82,000 increase in funding for the library was not collected through the tax levy by virtue of the town not including the additional money in its budget. The library is continuing to work with the town on solutions, but the monies may not come to the library.

He updated the trustees on balances in the library's bank and investment accounts. Jim stated that our investments are down about 3 percent, which is not bad considering the market volatility.

5. Director's Report: Jaclyn provided the report for February. The report was sent to the trustees prior to the meeting. Numerous upcoming programs were highlighted, including April 16 *Artist's Talk: Chad Kleitsch on Remnants of Impermanence*, April 25 *Roger Phillips Concert Series presents Cellist Raman Ramakrishnan with Three Bard Conservatory Students*, and April 30 *Joe Dolce on Modern Psychedelics: The Handbook for Mindful Exploration*. She also spoke about a few noteworthy past events, including Feb. 28 *Holi Extravaganza!*, which produced many hand-print artworks by kids now displayed in the main reading room, and March 12 *Assemblymember Sarahana Shrestha's Mobile Office Hours at Starr Library*.

Jaclyn shared that she and Al met with a building inspector who reviewed the condition of the library and its building systems from roof to foundation. The condition of the building is generally sound. Near-term items to receive attention are areas with notably

insufficient insulation and the roof, which has an estimated five years remaining in its service life.

Jaclyn handed out the 2025 report to the community. The four-page publication is an important way to share how the library serves Rhinebeck by being a vibrant community hub where people of all ages come to learn, connect, and grow. The trustees were enthusiastic about the piece.

6. Friends Report: Stephen reported that the Friends will host a book sale on March 27-28. He offered that the sale will have books in every category. Jaclyn informed the trustees that the Friends recently provided a generous donation to help patrons continue to enjoy great experiences at the library.
7. Claims and Warrants: Jim presented the items to the trustees. A motion was made to approve the claims and warrants. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
8. Standing Committee Reports: Jay informed the trustees that the PR/Communications Committee met to review draft copy and a preliminary layout for the report to the community. The committee offered some modest suggestions, feeling the publication was taking shape nicely.
9. Ad Hoc Committee Reports: There were no reports.
10. Correspondence: Jaclyn shared a letter from a participant in a series of workshops on memoir writing who passionately related how the program has had profound positive impacts on his life.
11. Old Business:
  - a. A revised Endowment Spending Policy was tabled.
  - b. A revised Gift Acceptance Policy was provided in advance of the meeting. A motion was made to approve the policy. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.
  - c. An update on fundraising was led by Erin. She stated that there was an open question about whether the board should embark on a campaign to raise monies to improve and possibly expand the library. Erin related that the Fundraising Committee would like to pursue an information-gathering/discovery phase for such a campaign.

Trustees discussed how to best shape a vision for the campaign and how to prioritize to ensure the library remains strategic in pursuing a modern library to best serve the community. Erin said next steps also would involve researching how a consultant could provide value in helping the campaign succeed. Trustee questions were put forth and appropriately answered with agreement that board engagement and questioning would remain important going forward. A motion was made to approve the Fundraising Committee moving ahead with gathering information. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

## 12. New Business

- a. A draft revised Patron Complaint Policy was shared with the trustees in advance. There were no comments from the trustees.
- b. A new draft Long Range Plan (2026-30) for the library that included messaging about its mission was circulated to the trustees in advance. Several board members submitted responses to the document prior to the meeting. Jaclyn initiated a discussion to elicit more feedback. Trustees asked for a bit more description of progress that might be sought for modernizing and expanding the library. There is interest in setting goals for the library board for the next five years. The trustees agreed to participate in a half-day retreat to do this goal setting. Jaclyn said she would give the plan a table of contents to enhance the plan's usability.

13. Public Comments: There were no comments.

14. Executive Session: The trustees went into executive session at 7 p.m. to discuss potential changes on hours for specific personnel.

15. Adjournment: There being no other business to conduct, a motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved at 7:45 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: April 23, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.