

STARR LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

68 W. Market Street
Rhinebeck, NY 12572

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, July 8, 2026, 5:30 P.M.

Because the June meeting was not held due to a June 25 Foster's Coach House fundraising event, a special June/July meeting was held on July 8.

Trustees Present: Jay Burgess, Heather Dubuque (via Zoom), Erin Humbaugh, Mimi Joh-Carnella, Tom Mendl, Al Ragucci, Jim Ruderman, Laura Selicaró, Andrew Schulkind, and Director Jaclyn Savolainen. Not in attendance was Laura Charles. Stephen Frost attended on behalf of the Friends.

1. Call to Order and Review of Agenda: Andrew, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 5:30 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. The draft minutes were distributed in advance 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 June. Financial information for the month was advanced to the Trustees. Jim reported that financial results to date show that at the halfway point of the year, expenses are slightly below half the amount in our budget. Things are looking positive because fundraising has closed the shortfall in the Library's budget. The budget gap occurred because a voter-approved \$82,000 funding increase for the Library was not collected in the tax levy by the Town. He updated the Trustees on balances in the Library's bank and investment accounts, indicating that all are in good shape and trending up.
5. Claims and Warrants: Jim presented the items to the Board. A motion was made to approve the claims and warrants. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
6. Director's Report: Jaclyn provided the report for June. The report was sent to the Trustees prior to the meeting. She highlighted numerous upcoming programs, including July 22 *Whose News Can We Use? A Conversation About Bias in the Media with Braver Angels*, July 24-25 *Friends of Starr Library Book Sale*, July 30 *Robert Kalman: What's It Like for You to Be An American* (photography book event), and August 11 *Rhinebeck Legion Band Concert*. Information was shared about insulation being installed in the Children's Area and that Library staff created a temporary space for children during the work period.

Among recently held events, the last concert from the Roger Phillips Concerts series drew another very large crowd.

Jaclyn reviewed statistics for June, noting that the most recent trend lines are showing a slight decrease in borrowing of physical items, while a strong increase can be seen with use of digital materials.

For funding initiatives, Jaclyn indicated that the Library has been informed that it will receive \$30,000 to support its operations. The grant is from the NYS Legislature and was sponsored by Assembly Member Sarahana Shrestha. The funds likely will be received in the next six to nine months. An anonymous gift of \$10,000 as a matching grant for the budget-shortfall fundraising campaign has been received.

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

7. Friends Report: Stephen reported that the Friends Book Sale will include a great collection of artworks.
8. Standing Committee Reports: Erin stated that the Fundraising Committee had not met since the June 25 fundraising event at Foster's Coach House, but she had some follow-up activities to suggest. She asked the PR Committee to create a communication on the website and via an email to inform Library patrons on the status of fundraising to close the budget gap. Gratitude should be expressed for the great generosity of those who gave to overcome the shortfall. Also additional donations should be encouraged and make use of an updated online donation form. Signage in the Library should amplify these communications. In addition, Heather is preparing a long-term fundraising plan and calendar.
9. Ad Hoc Committee Reports: There was nothing to report for these committees.
10. Correspondence: Jaclyn indicated that the Rhinebeck Town Clerk confirmed that the Library's filed petitions to enable a fall vote (414 ballot proposition) to increase the Library's budget have been forwarded to the Dutchess County Board of Elections.
11. Old Business:
 - a. The Bulletin Board Posting and Display Policy was advanced to the Trustees for a second reading. A motion was made to approve the policy. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.
 - b. The Public Relations Policy was advanced to the Trustees for a second reading. A motion was made to approve the policy. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.
 - c. An update on Rhinebeck Porchfest was provided to the Trustees. It was explained that the Library will not for this year be the fiscal sponsor for the community event due to complications with nonprofit charity law and insurance coverage. The Rhinebeck Park Fund will be the sponsor and has pledged to split

proceeds with the Library. For next year, the Library will see if it can resolve the legal and insurance issues to assume the fiscal-sponsor role.

- d. The Board Long Range Plan was advanced to the Trustees. It will be looked at further during a fall Board retreat.

12. New Business

- a. The Collection Development Policy Rewrite was advanced to the Trustees for a first reading.
- b. The Local Authors Materials Selections Policy was advanced to the Trustees for a first reading.
- c. The Public Comment and Meeting Conduct Policy was advanced to the Trustees for a first reading.
- d. The Bylaws Revisions were advanced to the Trustees for a first reading.

Discussions took place on the above items, and all questions asked by the Trustees were appropriately answered.

13. Public Comments: There were no comments.

14. Executive Session: There was no executive session.

15. Adjournment: There being no other business to conduct, a motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved at 7:01 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: August 27, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.