

Valley Cottage Library

110 Route 303, Valley Cottage, New York 10989 • 845.268.7700 • www.valleycottagelibrary.org



Annual Meeting of the Valley Cottage Library Association

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Minutes

Valley Cottage Library Board Members

Present: Frank Dwyer, President
Marjorie McLoughlin, Vice-President
Michael Mark, Treasurer
Mary Fiore, Trustee
Arlette Mooney, Trustee
Jemar Ward, Trustee

Valley Cottage Library Board Members

Absent: Melissa L. Roy, Secretary – excused

Voting Association Members

Present: Robert Blanchette
Mary Mark
Richard Mooney
Caroline Siecke-Pape
Christy Blanchette, Director

Also attending: Ashley Maraffino, non-voting
Carida Ridoré, non-voting

1. **Call to order** – Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by Frank Dwyer, Board President
2. **Public Comments** – None
3. **Approval of the minutes of the January 17, 2024 Association meeting** –

Moved by Arlette Mooney and seconded by Michael Mark the following resolution:

RESOLVED, to accept the Minutes of the January 17, 2024 Valley Cottage Library Association Meeting.
Motion passes 11-0.

4. **Comments from the Board President** –

Approved 1/21/2026

The President thanked the Association members for their continued interest and support; acknowledged the Director, Assistant Director and Staff for their abilities and commitment, the resignation of Trustee Herb Lerner and bestowing on him the status of Trustee Emeritus, and Jemar Ward's appointment as a new trustee.

5. **Director's Report –**

Key updates and achievements included: engineering updates; highlighting BIPOC business spotlight and graduate cohort initiatives; participation in the PRIDE parade; distribution of 1,000 solar eclipse glasses; Wi-Fi infrastructure upgrades, including fiber optics; facility updates (parking lot and crawl space repairs); review of benefits resulting in additional closed holidays; sharing a positive quote from a patron; extending thanks to board members for their support.

6. **2025 Operating Budget – presentation and vote –**

A motion was made by Mary Fiore and seconded by Michael Mark to approve the 2025 proposed budget. Motion approved 11-0.

7. **New Business**

Election of one (1) trustee to one (1) five-year term. Term ends 2029 –

Michael Mark nominated Arlette Mooney for a trustee term ending in 2029. Motion seconded by Marge McLoughlin. Vote 11-0.

Approval of amendments to Association bylaws –

New section added to Article III, Trustees, Section 2: No trustee may be employed by the library in any capacity, and no trustee may receive compensation for their service as a trustee.

A motion was made by Marge McLoughlin and seconded by Michael Mark for adoption. Motion approved 11-0.

Association bylaws, Article III, Trustees: Re-number the current Sections 2a and 3 as Section 3 and Section 4, respectively.

A motion was made by Arlette Mooney and seconded by Mary Fiore for adoption. Motion approved 11-0.

8. **Adjournment –**

Motion was made by Mary Fiore and seconded by Jemar Ward to adjourn, Motion approved 11-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jemar Ward
Trustee