

VALLEY COTTAGE LIBRARY

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



Board of Trustees Meeting of the
Valley Cottage Library
Wednesday, September 17, 2025

MINUTES

Present: Frank Dwyer, President
Melissa L. Roy, Secretary
Michael Mark, Treasurer
Mary Fiore, Trustee
Arlette Mooney, Trustee
Jemar Ward, Trustee

Christy Blanchette, Director
Ashley Maraffino, Assistant Director

Excused: Marge McLoughlin, Vice President

Public present: Carida Ridoré
Caroline Siecke-Pape

1. Call to order – Meeting called to order at 7:30pm by Frank Dwyer, President.

2. Public Comments –

Carida stated that the BIPOC Business Spotlight event is coming up on September 27.

3. Approval of Minutes – July 16, 2025 Minutes –

Moved by Arlette Mooney and seconded by Mary Fiore the following resolution:

To accept the Minutes of the July 16, 2025 library Board Meeting.
Motion passes 6-0.

4. President's Report –

Frank welcomed Christy back from her leave and thanked Ashley for stepping in while Christy was out of the office.

5. Director's Report – On file for review.

Christy shared the following highlights:

- She thanked the board for their get-well gift, and she thanked Ashley for stepping in.
- The Nyack Library appointed Tracy Dunstan as the new library director. Tracy had been serving as the interim director and has also served as the assistant director and head of adult services.
- The terms for two trustees (Melissa and Mary) are up in December. If they want to run again, they must submit a written statement no later than December 31. Elections will be held at the Annual Association Meeting in January.
- Invitations to a bench dedication in memory of Tom Protus, Sr. on October 5th were distributed.
- She reiterated that BIPOC Business Spotlight event will be held at the library on September 27 and at the Nyack library on September 28.
- The Banned Book Art Exhibit will be on display at the library throughout September.

6. Treasurer's Report –

Moved by Arlette Mooney and seconded by Melissa Roy the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Valley Cottage Library accepts the Treasurer's Reports dated July 31 and August 31, 2025 and approves the attached vouchers.
Motion passes 6-0.

7. Board Reports and New Business –

Personnel Report –

Moved by Michael Mark and seconded by Jemar Ward the following resolutions as a group:

RESOLVED, that on recommendation of the Library Director, the Board of Trustees of the Valley Cottage Library approves the appointment of Samson Lewis, part-time non-exempt, effective July 24, 2025.

RESOLVED, that on recommendation of the Library Director, the Board of Trustees of the Valley Cottage Library accepts the resignation of Sean Antonucci, whose last day of work will be September 13, 2025.
Motion passes 6-0.

Workplace Safety and Accident Prevention Policy –

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

RESOLVED, that on the recommendation of the Library Director, the Board of Trustees of the Valley Cottage Library approves the Workplace Safety and Accident Prevention Policy, as amended.
Motion passes 6-0

Generator proposals –

Moved by Arlette Mooney and seconded by Mary Fiore the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Valley Cottage Library authorizes the Library Director to enter into a contract with Lightning Electric for the supply and installation of a new generator and related work at an approximate cost of \$90,000.

Motion passes 6-0

Building Committee –

Christy reported that the renovation of the teen room and addition of the study rooms has been well received. She noted they are still waiting for some new furniture, signage, and new lighting for the renovated teen space.

Finance Committee –

Frank reported that the committee will meet on September 29.

8. Old Business –

Public Comments policy –

Frank reported that the Bylaws Committee will continue work on a Public Comments Policy.

9. Statistics – Reviewed

10. Adjournment

Moved by Michael Mark and seconded by Mary Fiore.

To adjourn the meeting.

Motion passes: 6-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa L. Roy, Secretary