

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, February 15, 2023

MINUTES

Present: Arlette Mooney, President
Frank Dwyer, Vice President
Melissa L. Roy, Secretary
Marge McLoughlin, Trustee
Christy Blanchette, Director
Ashley Maraffino, Assistant Director

Absent: Herb Lerner, Trustee – excused
Michael Mark, Treasurer – excused

Public attending: Ashley Guattery, Caroline Meyers

1. Call to order – Meeting called to order at 7:33pm by Arlette Mooney, President.

2. Public Comments – As a Valley Cottage resident, Caroline Meyers commiserated with the library board and staff regarding the recent troubles (broken sprinkler pipe and resulting flood).

3. Approval of January 18, 2023 Minutes

Tabled until the next board meeting on March 15, 2023.

4. President's Report –

Arlette commented as follows:

- The board accepts with regret the resignation of Kevin Graham, who served on the Valley Cottage Board of Trustees for 10 years. There is a vacant seat on the board that will be posted on the library website and in the seasonal newsletter.
- The budget vote passed for the Valley Cottage and Nyack libraries. Arlette noted the high voter turnout in Nyack may have been related to the Nyack Library Board of Trustees election held on the same night.
- In connection with the February 5th flood, Arlette expressed thanks on behalf of the board for the hard work done by Christy, Ashley, and the staff to get the library open and functional, as well as the timely response from the Valley Cottage Fire Department.

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

Christy reported as follows:

- Christy was appreciative of Arlette's comments regarding her leadership in responding to the February 5th flood but noted that equal praise goes to Ashley. She also noted that the staff have gone above and beyond in helping.
- Christy reached out to the fire department to thank them for their prompt response on February 5th. She noted that the flood would have been worse if they hadn't arrived so quickly. The fire department has requested that the library send a thank you letter that can be read during one of their meetings as well as highlight their actions and the library's thanks on the library's social media platforms. Based on Arlette's suggestion, Christy will send a donation to the Fire Department on behalf of the Friends of the Library.
- The roofing project, which was scheduled to begin in March, began on February 14.
- According to Mirna Franco from Nyack Public Schools, the budget vote tally from Valley Cottage was 137 (Yes) and 36 (No).
- The bank informed Christy that a counterfeit \$20 bill was found in the most recent bank deposit. She noted that this was the first time the library had received and deposited a counterfeit bill.

6. Treasurer's Report

Tabled until the next Board meeting on March 15, 2023.

7. Board Reports and New Business –

Personnel Report –

Moved by Marge McLoughlin and seconded by Frank Dwyer the following resolution: RESOLVED, that on recommendation of the Library Director, the Board of Trustees of the Valley Cottage Library approves the appointment of Morgan Strand, part-time non-exempt, effective February 8, 2023.

Motion passes 4-0.

Strategic Plan Committee –

Christy suggested that the committee meet with the consultant to discuss the survey content and the timing of its deployment in light of recent developments (flood).

Bylaws Committee –

Further discussion of video-conferencing option was tabled.

Finance Committee –

None

Open Meetings Policy –

Moved by Frank Dwyer and seconded by Melissa Roy the following resolution: RESOLVED, that on recommendation of the Library Director, the Board of Trustees of the Valley Cottage Library approves the Open Meeting Policy as revised.

Motion passes 4-0.

Moved by Melissa Roy and seconded by Marge McLoughlin the following resolution: RESOLVED, that on recommendation of the Library Director, the Board of Trustees of the Valley Cottage Library approves the retirement of the Notice of Time and Place of Meeting Policy.

Motion passes 4-0.

Flood remediation and repair –

Christy confirmed that the library is up-to-date with insurance premiums. She noted that the insurance adjuster has identified the matter as a catastrophic claim of close to \$500,000. The library has a \$1000 deductible.

Flood repair overage expenditure resolution –

Christy noted that while the insurance coverage will cover what was damaged during or because of the flood, she anticipates multiple unbudgeted but necessary expenses will be incurred that will not be covered by insurance. Potential Overages List on file.

Moved by Frank Dwyer and seconded by Marge McLoughlin the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Valley Cottage Library authorizes the Library Director to spend up to \$200,000 from the reserve operating budget to cover potential overages to pay for flood recovery and improvements.

Motion passes 4-0.

8. Old Business – None

9. Workshop Items –

Meeting Room Calendar – Reviewed

Statistics – Reviewed

10. Call to Adjourn

Moved by Marge McLoughlin and seconded by Frank Dwyer

To adjourn the meeting.

Motion passes 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa L. Roy, Secretary