



Katonah Village Library Board Meeting Minutes June 28, 2021

Regular Meeting - IN PERSON

Call to order (Mike Dwyer) at 8:15 p.m.

Present: Mary Kane, Mike Dwyer, Rhea Johnson, Mary Herrstadt, Joe Tropiano, Jennifer Versacci, Cassie Coccaro , Amy Drucker, Susan Popovic, Tony Mamo

Absent: Vienna Wong, Sue Hassett, Ian Shaw, Barb Chintz

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the May, 2021 meeting were approved without exception.

Director's Report (Mary Kane) See attachment

General Discussion

Mary Herrstadt received a a\$10K grant from a non-profit charitable organization to be used towards library programming that encompasses inclusion, diversity and equity. One idea Mary is exploring is the Human Library, a place where people are books on loan to readers for chatting, a concept that challenges stereotypes and prejudices through honest dialogue.

Rhea shared she has done some research on diversity initiatives at other libraries nationally and can share with us at a later date in support of the beginning of our new Diversity Committee.

Amy Drucker suggested using Slack for Board communications going forward. We discussed pros / cons and if we can get a version for free / low cost.

Advocacy Campaign

An estimated 400 people have signed our petition to the Town Board for funding restoration. We discussed the seriousness of our position and how to get ready to meet with the town again in time for their budget discussions in August prior to the November election.

Committee Reports

Finance Report (Ian Shaw)

N/A

Building and Grounds (Ian Shaw)

N/A

Book Sales (Mary Herrnstadt)

N/A

Programming Committee (Mike Dwyer)

N/A

Development Committee (Rhea Johnson)

N/A

*****Board Meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm.**

**The next Board Meeting is Monday, July 26.
Please see Director's report attached below.**

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Versacci, Secretary



KATONAH VILLAGE LIBRARY

We are Community...

Director's Report May 25-June 26, 2021

Education Campaign

This month's focus was on preparing the library's Education Campaign, geared towards informing the community about the library's funding gap. (As so many of our patrons have been inquiring about the library's reduced services.) Knowing how important it is to keep our public informed, the Development Committee went through a good deal of painstaking detail, in order to accurately convey the library's plight and message—through a landing page, letter to the town and patron FAQ. The execution of the site through an online petition platform had various issues to work out—but on Thursday June 24th the site went live and was eblasted/put on social media. As of today, the campaign has 369 signatures of support.

Pride Month Awareness

The Library celebrated Pride Day with Children's Programs and by taking part in *Chalk the Walk* (spreading rainbow chalk colors and positive messages around the Town of Bedford). Board member Mary Herrstadt, who is also a member of the Idea Committee (TOB), coordinated the library's participation. And Tina the Turtle was out and proud—in her portable enclosure.

Summer Reading Program

The Children's Room staff kicked off the 2021 Summer Reading Program, *Tails and Tales* on June 21st. Geared towards children ages 3 – 11, the Summer Reading Program promotes early literacy, nurtures a love of reading and helps to maintain and strengthen reading skills. Accompanied by virtual and live programs and a weekly community scavenger hunt and weekly Grab 'n Go craft bags, the kids will be kept very busy. So far, 110 children have signed up.

Meetings Attended:

PLDA

KVL Programming Committee

KVL Staff Meeting

Katonah Poetry Series Board Meeting

Meeting with Desiree Meineck from the IDEA Committee (town of Bedford)