



Katonah Village Library Board Meeting Minutes Sept. 27, 2021

Regular Board Meeting (held in person)

Call to order (Michael Dwyer) at 7:38 p.m.

Present: Barbara Chintz, Amy Drucker, Cassie Coccaro, Mike Dwyer, Rhea Johnson, Susan (Popovic) Hayes, Sue Hassett, Anthony Mamo, Ian Shaw, Joe Tropiano, Vienna Wong

Absent: Mary Herrnstadt, Jennifer Versacci,

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the July 26, 2021 meeting were approved without exception. (There was no August Board meeting.)

Director's Report(Mary Kane) See attachment below.

Action ITEM:

MOTION to approve getting the carpet replaced in the garden room due to water damage from Hurricane Ida. We need to purchase new carpet squares, remove ruined squares, plus keep a few extra squares for the door areas. Cost estimate is \$7,404.18.

Mike made motion to approve. Seconded by Joe Tropiano.

Motion Approved unanimously.

Action ITEM:

MOTION to approve Westchester Library System SLA contingent on Tony Mamo's request that one section be changed by WLS before approval.

Mike Dwyer made a motion to approve. Seconded by Anthony Mamo.

Motion Approved unanimously.

Finance Report (Mike Dwyer)

We had a constructive pre-budget meeting with councilperson Ellen Calves and town comptroller, Abe Zambrano. Town revenue streams are down somewhat-- \$350,000 instead of usual \$500,000. Ellen and Abe encouraged us to think there was a path to restore KVL .

Our messaging campaign was key to getting the Town Board to pay attention to us. Our message became the voice of the people. We will not open on Sat. until budget is settled.

Building and Grounds (Tony Mamo)

A large portion of our gardening is done by volunteers, which is becoming difficult to sustain.. Watering and pruning are our main needs. Mary will get estimates on what the cost would be of someone to keep up on this on a monthly basis. There was also some discussion as to whether the town could help with this as well as snow removal

HVAC is working well. We got through the summer with no issues. Our recent NYS Energy audit recommended we get controls so we could maintain the temp which would bring our costs down.

We have a delayed start on the ADA bathroom because there is a back log for getting permits at the Bedford Building Dept. The permit was submitted in July.

Book Sales (Mary Herrstadt)

Mary Kane reported that the book sale has made almost \$10,000 in sales since it started. There are five volunteers who work on the book sale.

Nominating Committee (Susan Hayes)

Susan has recommended a possible new board member who will bring a great skill set. We vote in November to approve board members and we will let people know then.

Development Committee

Ellen Waltmyer secured two matching anonymous grants for a total of \$10,000 towards the Annual Appeal Challenge.

*****Board Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.**

The next Board Meeting is Monday, Oct. 25, 2021

Please see Director's report attached below

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Chintz, acting Secretary for Jennifer Versacci

Director's Report July 25- September 24, 2021

Library Advocacy

On August 10, Michael Dwyer and I presented the letter to the Town Board, signed by 1080 library supporters, and asked the town to take action. Aside from the letter, many personal letters of support have been sent to both the newspapers and to the town board members. On August 26th, Michael Dwyer and I also met with Ellen Calves and Abe Zambrano on August 26th to discuss the library's situation and needs. The conversation was optimistic in tone.

Annual Appeal

Ellen Waltmyer has been preparing the Annual Appeal letters for mailing. She has secured a \$10,000 matching gift (from two generous donors). Ellen will be asking board members to participate in signing annual appeal letters again, as this personalized touch leaves an impact on the donor.

Programming

Adult Programming: *The Upcycling* event organized by Michael Robin and teen volunteers was hopping. Many patrons donated clothing—and took part in the “swap”. *See the attached Children's Services document for an update on everything the Children's Room.*

Garden Room Flooding

After the big storm on September 1st, the Library Garden Room flooded heavily. The carpets are not salvageable. It has been difficult to find a company who can do mold remediation as they are all busy with storm damage. The library is on five wait lists.

Mask Issues and Abusive patron behavior

A man describing himself as an "independent journalist", visited the library on September 15th and later phoned twice. He stated that he believes it is his First Amendment right to refuse to wear a mask, and that it is the library's obligation to permit this. He stated that he plans to return to film interactions with library staff. This patron was combative and told the Children's Librarian to shut up. He also swore at circulation clerk. So far, the patron has not returned to the library.

Two Police visits

The Library's burglar alarm went off August 7 at 11:30pm and I was alerted by Knight Security. The Bedford police did a thorough search of the library and

realized a flying bat in the Garden Room had set the alarm off. I called a pest control company the next day, but the bat was not found.

The Police called on Saturday, September 4th to inform me that people were wandering around the library. The library was closed, but both front doors were left open by the WLS delivery service—and patrons were coming in. After several hours, a patron called the police. The police were able to lock the doors. I went into the library to make sure there were no problems due to this situation.

Patron Computers

Two patron computers (with sneeze guards) have been set up. One is a Chromebox and the other a PC. Both have a one hour limit. (This will soon be increased to two hour intervals.) Patrons may also borrow Chromebooks for use in the Library.

Library Website

The Library website had a malware incident set off by a plugin update. Staff and patrons were unable to access the library calendar for over a week. Additionally, staff had issues signing on. The problem has been resolved by our website developer.