



Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting

Date: 03/27/2025

Location: Library Community Room

Trustees Attending in person:

Dani French (President), Elizabeth Dickey (Vice President), Michael Grisham (Treasurer), Jim Kelly (Secretary), Jessica Almeleh-Frazer, Miranda Barry, Wesley Brown, Joseph Ferris, Linda Friedner, Sean Gilleran, Kellen Henry, Ryan Kelly, Gary Sheffer, and Sherry Jo Williams.

Excused: Carol Pledger

Absent: none

Staff Attending: Emily Chameides (Director)

Others Attending: Aaron Able, Patty Brennan, Sharon Javna (remotely), Kelley Robinson, Heather Thiry, Janet Schnitzer

Meeting was called to order by Dani French at 06:02 pm. She welcomed trustees.

A motion to approve the February meeting minutes was made by Miranda Barry and seconded by Joseph Ferris. Vote to approve minutes was unanimous.

Reports

President's Report: Dani French

Dani noted that this is her last meeting as president, after a year in that role, due to other life demands. Dani will remain on the Board. Dani noted that Gary Sheffer is prepared to step in as Board President. Dani noted that Gary is a Hudson native and is connected to and invested in Hudson's past and future. Dani thanked Elizabeth Dickey (Vice President) and Michael Grisham (Treasurer) for their time serving on the Board and their efforts to support the library. Dani highlighted board achievements in the past year, including the 414 committees work, the gala, the Ghostly Gallop, the programming committee, the history room, and more. Dani noted being excited about the board engaging in strategic long term planning in the coming year and thanked everyone on the board and Emily for their hard work.

Treasurer's Report: Michael Grisham

Through February, we collected 67% of our annual budgeted operating income and spent 12% of our budgeted operating expenses. Total Receipts were \$131,251 for the month. Total Expenses were \$68,665 for the month. Notable in Income for the Month: in Unrestricted Income - Donations, \$30,000 from an individual donor and in Public Funds, \$95,000 from Town of Greenport and \$2,000 from Town of Stockport.

A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's Report by Joseph Ferris and seconded by Sherry Jo Williams. Vote to approve the report was unanimous.

A motion was made to open accounts at Greylock Federal Credit Union and Hudson Valley Credit Union to purchase Certificate of Deposit accounts (CDs) of up to \$250,000 each (a 6 month term at Greylock Federal Credit Union and 1 year term at Hudson Valley Credit Union) by Joseph Ferris and seconded by Miranda Barry. Vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

Michael Grisham, Emily Chameides, and incoming Treasurer Patty Brennan, will move forward with opening these accounts and replacing Michael with Patty as an approved signer on the library's bank accounts in the coming weeks.

A motion was made to approve the Profit & Loss Statement by Wesley Brown and seconded by Sean Gilleran. Vote to approve the report was unanimous.

Director's Report: Emily Chameides

The new Youth Services Manager is settling in well with a variety of roles and responsibilities.

Facilities updates: Planning to purchase a desk for the new Youth Services Manager and additional storage shelves for the office. The library also purchased the laptops and tablets for the DigitalLearn tech training sessions; Paul has been busy setting those up for use. The library security system has been updated.

The community cabinet was launched this past month and is stocked with non-perishable food items and hygiene items with Operation Unite replenishing it. We are working to bring awareness to this in the community.

Emily noted that the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is the federal entity that supports libraries on a national level and manages the Grants to States federal funding that IMLS is statutorily required to provide to state libraries. A current executive order mandates significant reduction to IMLS staff and operations - the majority of staff members are on administrative leave and there is a new acting director. A bipartisan letter was sent to the new acting director of the IMLS requesting that they support the Grants to States program. HAL and the Mid-Hudson Library System do not currently receive IMLS funding. The NYS Division of Library Development (DLD) distributes State funds and manages the Public Library Construction Aid, that supports the Mid-Hudson Library System and its member libraries, may be impacted by these developments which could potentially cause funding delays or other challenges. Libraries have been working to raise awareness and voice concern about potential impacts. Emily shared ways that the Board can show support for IMLS and federal funding for libraries, as well as support for the New York State Library and library systems and libraries in New York.

Emily noted upcoming available Trustee education opportunities, including a few in person offerings in Columbia County (see Director's report).

Board Development: Sean Gilleran

The big Board update will happen later tonight (see annual meeting minutes). Sean is excited to welcome new board members in the annual meeting. The Board recruitment team would like those who noted interest in the Board but will not be serving on the Board to have opportunities to participate in the library.

Next month trustees will be asked to state their commitment to participating on a Board committee.

Sean proposed a new slate of board members for 2025 - Aaron Able, Patty Brennan, Sharon Javna (remotely), Kelley Robinson, and Heather Thiry, as well as the Board members returning for their second three-year terms, Dani French and Jessica Almeleh-Frazer.

Sean proposed a new slate of Board officers for 2025 - Gary Sheffer (president), Dani French (Vice President), Patty Brennan (Treasurer), and Jim Kelly (Secretary). The bios of the new slate of nominees were circulated prior to this meeting.

A motion to approve the slate of trustees as proposed for three-year terms was made by Joseph Ferris and seconded by Michael Grisham. Vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

A motion to approve the slate of new officers as proposed was made by Miranda Barry and seconded by Wesley Brown. Vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

History Room: Gary Sheffer

The Whaling Exhibit opening had a great turn out, estimated to be over 200 people. Gary thanked Carol Pledger, Sherry Jo Williams, Dani French, Janet Schnitzer and many others for their contributions to the opening reception. Saturday, April 26 and May 31 the Daughters of the American Revolution (a partner for the Whaling exhibit) will do tours of the Jenkins house and a public discussion on women and whaling. May 10th/11th at Basilica Farm and Flea we will have a space with Whaling Exhibit merchandise. The Hudson River Tattoo parlor extended their opportunity for individuals to receive Spouty whale tattoos for a suggested \$10 donation to the library for an extra month.

Sponsorship and Fundraising: Miranda Barry

Miranda and Gary have been working to plan a Board retreat and sent out a survey about potential open times for this. Sunday, April 27 was the most popular date. Miranda noted being excited for the Fundraising committee to be an opportunity to be strategic about what we need to progress our fundraising effectiveness.

We are starting to collect what our trustees perceive as effective donation call to action content for potential inspiration, feel free to save anything you find and share with the Sponsorship and Fundraising committee. All Board members are expected to contribute to the Library based on their means to do so, with recurring monthly donations noted as a way to potentially give more at a comfortable pace.

Ghostly Gallop: from Ryan Kelly

We have secured the banners, site, and course and will kick off the Ghostly Gallop committee in May. Ryan noted being excited for the Fundraising and Sponsorship committee's assistance. Dani has agreed to take on the co-chair of the Ghostly Gallop. There is a funding opportunity from the City of Hudson for programs that support tourism to Hudson that Ryan applied to on behalf of the Ghostly Gallop. October 26 is the Ghostly Gallop date this year.

Gala: Jessica Almeleh-Frazer

Jessica noted feeling hopeful that next week on Monday at 5pm via zoom individuals will join the Gala committee meeting and be excited to participate. Jessica is hoping to finalize our theme and the individual(s) we will honor in the gala next month.

Programming: Kellen Henry

The new Library Newsletter launched last month and appeared to generate good viewership. There is a collection of flyers in the entry hall of the library that demonstrate how Tracy has streamlined the logo and

branding of library events. Next Friday at 1 pm at the Library a programming strategy meeting will occur, please consider joining the Programming committee and this meeting. The highlighted programs this month are a Storytime event April 30 and a Jazz quartet concert April 12.

414: Joseph Ferris

Joseph explained, for the incoming trustees, that 414 is the term that we use for the process by which an association library such as ours can seek additional funding through a ballot measure from the communities that it serves. A doodle invite will be going out for the next 414 meeting.

Friends of the Hudson Area Library Report: Joseph Ferris

The Friends of the Library raised over \$2,200 dollars with their Book and Bake sale. If you have books for donation the Friends are open to accepting those, but will not be accepting CDs, DVDs, or other digital media..

Public Comments:

Janet Schnitzer noted that it is customary to announce the proposed slate of new board members during the monthly meeting (prior to the annual meeting) and the Board agreed and announced this information (see Board Development section).

Kelly Robinson, Aaron Able, Heater Thiry, Patty Brennan, and Sharon Javna introduced themselves and noted their excitement at the prospect of joining the Board.

Motion to adjourn was made at 07:08 pm by Sean Gilleran and seconded by Joe Ferris. Vote to adjourn was passed unanimously.

Jim Kelly, 03 27 2025	4.17.25
Recording Secretary	Date of approval