



Board of Trustees Annual 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, 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

Dani called the meeting to order at 07:18 pm and reviewed the agenda.

*Motion to approve 2024 annual meeting minutes was made by Jim Kelly and seconded by Joseph Ferris.
Vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.*

Ratification of the 2025 Operating Budget: Michael Grisham

Michael asked if the Board had any questions about the operating budget and noted that the Proposed 2025 Budget had been reviewed and approved by the Finance Committee which consists of past treasurers (which Michael will soon join). Michael noted that the Finance Committee voiced concern about having our savings not gaining interest and recommended opening CD accounts (see March 2025 monthly meeting minutes). It was noted that the proposed budget was also reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee of the Board prior to this meeting. The operating budget includes two new staff members and health insurance for new staff and for one staff member who is eligible and electing to sign up this year. The library strives to have a balanced budget.

*A motion to approve the 2025 operating budget was made by Sean Gilleran and seconded by Miranda Barry.
The budget was approved with a unanimous vote.*

Library Director's Annual Report: Emily Chameides

Emily provided a report highlighting community engagement with library programs, exhibitions, resources, collections, outreach engagements, and events in 2024 and highlighted focus areas for 2025. In 2025 the Library will be focusing on strategic planning, long-term sustainability, and offerings that celebrate local

culture and history. Emily thanked the library’s many collaborating partners, its staff, trustees, and volunteers for their past and continuing contributions. Emily also thanked the library’s many members, local businesses, the City of Hudson, Town of Greenport, Town of Stockport and Columbia County for their support and collective engagement with the library.

A motion to approve the Annual Report was made by Wesley Brown and seconded by Elizabeth Dickey. The annual report was approved unanimously.

Election of the Trustees & Officers

Sean proposed the following slate of new and renewing board members: new board members for three-year terms beginning in March 2025: Aaron Able, Patty Brennan, Sharon Javna, Kelley Robinson, and Heather Thiry. Existing board members renewing for their second three-year terms: Jessica Almeleh-Frazer and Dani French. The floor was opened for discussion and no other nominees were proposed.

Jim cast one ballot to approve the slate as presented.

Sean proposed the following slate of officers of the Board of Trustees: Gary Sheffer (President), Dani French (Vice President), Jim Kelly (Secretary), and Patty Brennan (Treasurer). The floor was opened for discussion and no other nominees were proposed.

Jim cast one ballot to approve the slate as presented.

Public comment

none

Motion to adjourn made by Sean Gilleran at 7:51 pm and seconded by Joseph Ferris. Vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Jim Kelly, 03 27 2025

Recording Secretary

3/19/26

Date of approval