

**HOWLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MARCH 8, 2022**

Call to Order: Tom Rigney called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call of Members:

Jessica Conway, Diane Landau-Flayter, Kathleen Furfey, Darlene Resling, Thomas Rigney, Karen Twohig, Phoebe Zinman (arrived at 7:09), Director Kristen Salierno *ex officio* and Recording Secretary Julie Beyer. Sam Anderson was excused.

Votes: All votes were unanimous, unless otherwise noted.

Public Participation: None.

Guest Speakers:

None.

Reading of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

D. Landau-Flayter made a **motion** to approve the February 8, 2022 meeting minutes. Seconded by D. Resling and carried.

Financial Report: See attached report.

K. Twohig made a **motion** to accept the Budget vs Actual Financial report year to date as presented. Seconded by D. Resling. Motion carried. On a **motion** by D. Landau-Flayter and seconded by K. Twohig, the Balance Sheet as of March 1, 2022 was accepted as presented. K. Twohig made a **motion** to approve the bill payments for check number 3816 through 3853. Seconded by D. Resling and carried. There were no budget transfers or budget amendments.

President's Report: See attached report.

T. Rigney stated he has been very reflective lately. He has been a trustee since 2014 and a lot has happened since he started. He is grateful to do what the Board does. It is the trustees' job to protect this institution and the freedom of information and to help it evolve. It gets more challenging every year. His hope is that everyone is able to look back and be proud of what they have done and he thanked the Board for being on this journey with him.

Director's Report: See attached report.

Kristin Charles-Scaringi is working with Gerry at Mid-Hudson Library System on the router issue. The library hopes to have a new router within two weeks.

Unfinished/Committee Reports:

Board Development/Policy Committee:

K. Furfey stated the Board evaluations were put off until March, so now they will be sent to Board members. The Ask Me Anything Column on the Mid-Hudson Library website this month was regarding minutes. There was some discussion about when they need to be made available to the public verses when they need to be posted on the website. The Trustee Handbook Book Club Series for March 29 is Policies and Risk Management. There will also be Trustee Tips added monthly. This month's was in regards to Open Meeting Law and stated any document to be discussed at a meeting had to be available 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Building Committee: See attached report.

Finance Committee:

D. Landau-Flayter stated the committee has not met.

Personnel/Nominating Committee: See attached report.

T. Rigney thanked the committee and P. Zinman for offering her trustee e-mail account for anyone with election questions.

Planning Committee:

K. Twohig said the survey is out. When the results are back they will be presented to the Board for discussion. Advocacy Week went well. Director Salierno stated Howland was the only library that had trustees at every one of their representatives' meetings.

Friends Liaison

T. Rigney stated he did not have a report at this time.

New Business:

Director Salierno stated the Annual Report had nothing of note. The most changes from prior years was in the programming. On a **motion** by D. Landau-Flayter and seconded by J. Conway, the Annual Report was accepted as presented.

Director Salierno presented the survey from staff regarding masks. There was much discussion among the Board regarding the pros and cons of continuing to require them. Director Salierno stated staff is not enforcing the existing policy at this time as some patrons have been become confrontational regarding being asked to wear them. She has only received one e-mail from a patron regarding the mask policy. The Board in general felt they wanted to make sure both the public and the staff were comfortable and safe with whatever decision they made. Director Salierno stated the library will be going to Service Level F in the near future, but until then, the Board does need to address masks. P. Zinman made a **motion** to override all previous mandates regarding masks to now allow masks to be optional in the library unless social distancing cannot be maintained. Seconded by D. Landau-Flayter and carried.

Trustee Resling presented her resignation from the Board of Trustees. She stated it has been a privilege to service on the Board for the past 3 years. T. Rigney thanked her for

her service. D. Landau-Flayter made a **motion** to accept D. Resling's resignation with regret. Seconded by K. Furfey and carried.

Good and Welfare:

J. Beyer said she will not be at the next meeting, but will make sure K. Furfey has the outline to do minutes. T. Rigney stated he has an Irish gig next week in the city and will be playing solo at Dogwood Easter Sunday evening.

The next meeting is April 12, 2022.

Adjournment:

D. Resling made a **motion** to adjourn at 8:01 PM. Seconded by D. Landau-Flayter. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie J. Beyer, Recording Secretary

MOTION to accept the February minutes

MOTION to accept the Financial Report

MOTION to accept the Budget vs Actual Financial

MOTION to accept the Warrants and Claims

MOTION to accept the Annual Report as presented

MOTION to override all previous mandates regarding masks to now allow masks to be optional in the library unless social distancing cannot be maintained

MOTION to accept D. Resling's resignation letter

MOTION to adjourn