

Rensselaerville Library
Minutes of the Annual Meeting
21 September 2021

The annual meeting of the Rensselaerville Library convened at Conkling Hall and virtually at 7:00 p.m. on 21 September 2021. Trustees and staff in attendance: Tracy Bensen, Gerard Finin, Tim Lippert, Robert Pondiscio, Hans Soderquist, Jeanne Strausman, Linda Styer, Director Heidi Carle. Trustees who were excused: Diana Frangos, Joe Frisino, Annemarie Martinez, Paul Ventura. Guests included: Kostas Anagnopoulos, Judy Crilley, Susan Cunningham, Gordon Enk, Donna Kropp, Ken Rypkema, Liza Green, and Ann Eldridge Malone.

Welcome/President's Message

The meeting was called to order by President Linda Styer. President Styer welcomed trustees and guests who were attending both in-person and virtually. She thanked current trustees and the future trustees who would be joining the board. A special note of thanks was extended to Conkling Hall for use of the meeting space.

President Styer reported on highlights of 2020-2021. Although the COVID pandemic continues to be challenging, the library has made substantial progress in returning to normal operations. In thanking Director Carle for her leadership, it was noted that the library is actively working on expanded town-wide coverage, improved accessibility, and more sustainable funding. With regard to funding President Styer said that the library was successful this year in securing \$15,000 annually in support from the Middleburgh Central School District. This will complement the current support received from the Town of Rensselaerville and the Greenville Central School District. President Styer thanked retiring board members Diana Frangos, Tim Lippert, and Jeanne Strausman for their years of dedicated service as trustees.

In concluding her remarks President Styer noted that she has now concluded her second and final three-year term as a trustee, having served two years as vice president and three years as president. She indicated that it has been a productive, enjoyable, and wonderful learning experience, and she thanked Trustee Robert Pondiscio for agreeing to be nominated as the incoming board president. President Styer also thanked former Director Kim Zimmer and current Director Heidi Carle for their support and cooperation, noting that it has been a privilege and pleasure to work with these dedicated individuals.

Secretary's Report

The September 2020 minutes of the Annual Meeting were submitted for review by Secretary Joe Frisino. In the absence of Secretary Frisino, Jerry Finin recorded the minutes. There were no modifications to the 2020 Annual Meeting minutes. A motion was made by Vice President

Lippert to accept the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Trustee Jeanne Strausman and passed by a unanimous vote.

Director's Report

Director Heidemarie "Heidi" Carle submitted a detailed year-end and highlights report. She noted that the Library is a member of the Upper Hudson Library System with a New York State Department of Education Charter that dates back one-hundred years to 1921, making this year our Centenary. A full report about the Library is submitted annually to the Department of Education. A condensed hard copy version was distributed at the meeting and is posted on the Library's website. Despite the challenges presented by the ongoing COVID pandemic (and full closure March 16 through June 8, 2020) the Library has returned to normal hours of operation and is now offering most services. The number of registered borrowers has increased.

Director Carle also noted that important activities such as Zoom poetry and online children's programs are growing. There is a new children's StoryWalk at the Rensselaerville Town Park, and increased internet programming is available through the Upper Hudson Library System. Numerous improvements have been made this year to the Library's interior space. Several staff changes were reported, and Director Carle conveyed her gratitude to all of the volunteers, particularly Ms. Susan Cunningham.

A motion was made by Vice President Lippert to accept the Director's Report as submitted. The motion was seconded by Trustee Robert Pondiscio and passed by a unanimous vote.

Building and Grounds Committee Report

President Linda Styer presented the Building and Grounds Committee report submitted by Trustee Paul Ventura who was not present. During the past year water damage caused by the residence next door was repaired. The library's front deck was sanded and recoated. The roof soffits have been repaired and repainted. The Committee researched the benefits and cost of installing additional fire doors. The Committee also investigated the possibility of a fire suppression and fire alarm system. It was judged to be too expensive at this time. However, "Nest" alarm devices to remotely monitor the library for fire have been installed. Vendors have been contacted to remove the dead tree behind the library and fall building maintenance is scheduled to start in October. A motion was made by Assistant Treasurer Soderquist to accept the Building Committee Report as submitted. The motion was seconded by Vice President Lippert and passed by a unanimous vote.

Fundraising Committee Report

President Styer presented the Fundraising Committee Report submitted by Treasurer Annemarie Martinez who was not present. Many of the 2020-2021 fundraisers were cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, a virtual cocktail party was held, as well as a virtual Centennial Challenge event that raised almost \$3,000. In addition, the combined Greenery Sale (trees and wreaths only) and online auction were very successful, raising almost \$2,000 more than in previous years. The 2020 Annual Appeal also raised some \$2,000 more than in previous years. In light of several scheduling conflicts during the Labor Day weekend, the 2021 Lawn Party was combined with a memorial service for Roswell Eldridge, MD. Mailing of the 2021 Annual Appeal Letter is currently being organized. The activities below raised the following net sums:

2020 Annual Appeal Letter	\$37,347
2020 Cocktail Party (May)	\$2,111
2021 Ramble Run (not held)	
2021 Block Party (not held)	
2021 Lawn Party (TBD)	
2021 Centennial Challenge	\$750

A motion was made by Trustee Jeanne Strausman to accept the Fundraising Committee Report as submitted. The motion was seconded by Assistant Treasurer Soderquist and passed by a unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report and Review of Budget

Assistant Treasurer Hans Soderquist presented the Fundraising Committee Report submitted by Treasurer Annemarie Martinez who was not present. It appears that the library will be slightly under budget for fiscal year 2021, with a projected \$10,248 surplus. Part of the explanation for this stems from changes brought about by the COVID pandemic. The firm handling the library's financial review has submitted the 2019 tax returns and will have the 2020 tax returns completed by October 2021. A motion was made by Trustee Tracy Bensen to accept the Treasurer's Committee Report as submitted. The motion was seconded by Trustee Robert Pondiscio and passed by a unanimous vote.

Review of 2021 Nominating Committee Recommendations

In keeping with the by-laws, President Styer moved to have previously appointed Trustee Robert Pondiscio fill the balance of an unexpired trustee term that was created in October 2020 by the resignation of an elected trustee. This term will expire in 2022. The motion was seconded by Trustee Soderquist. There were no nominations from the floor. The Acting Secretary cast one vote in favor of Trustee Pondiscio for this uncontested seat.

In his capacity as Chair of the Nominating Committee, former trustee Mr. Paul Kelly conveyed that there were four open seats. He made the following trustee nominations:

Mr. Kostas (Gus) Anagnopoulos
Ms. Judy Crilley
Ms. Donna Kropp
Mr. Ken Rypkema

There were no nominations from the floor. President Styer moved to accept the Nominating Committee's report. The motion was seconded by Trustee Strausman. The Acting Secretary cast one vote in favor of appointing these individuals to fill the four uncontested seats. Each appointment is to fill a first term.

Election of Officers

President Styer moved to nominate the prearranged slate of officers for a term of one year. The motion was seconded by Trustee Judith Crilley. There were no additional nominations. The Acting Secretary cast one vote in favor of the following nominated slate of officers:

President: Robert Pondiscio
Vice President: Hans Soderquist
Treasurer: Annemarie Martinez
Assistant Treasurer: Jerry Finin
Secretary: Joe Frisino
Check signer #1: Joe Frisino
Check signer #2: Paul Ventura

Trustee Nominating Committee for 2022

President Linda Styer moved to nominate the individuals listed below to serve on the Trustee Nominating Committee for 2022. The motion was seconded by Trustee Donna Kropp and was passed by a unanimous vote.

Paul Kelly
Tim Lippert
Linda Styer

Comment and Question Period

President Linda Styer opened the floor for comments and questions from the community. There were no comments or questions.

Adjournment

President Linda Styer moved to adjourn the annual meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Robert Pondiscio and was passed by a unanimous vote. The 2021 Annual Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Finin
Acting Secretary