

# RUSH PUBLIC LIBRARY

*Growing Readers Since 1914*

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2019

**ROLE CALL AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM:** The meeting was called to order by Becky Herman, President, who determined that a quorum was present.

Trustees Present: Becky Herman, Hal Carter, Karin Kirk, Julia Lederman, Sharon Mason

Trustees Absent: Cindy Raymond, Steven Neumaier

Officers and Others Present: Kirsten Flass, Director; Letty Laskowski, Treasurer; Rita McCarthy, Town Board Liaison

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** On motion of Julia Lederman, seconded by Karin Kirk, the Board Meeting Minutes of October 15, 2019 were unanimously approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Ms. Laskowski reviewed the Bank Accounts Register. On motion of Karin Kirk, seconded by Julia Lederman, the Treasurer's Report was approved with the direction that a copy of the Bank Accounts Register be maintained in the Library records.

**DIRECTORS' REPORT:** Ms. Flass presented the monthly Director's Report. On motion of Karin Kirk, seconded by Julia Lederman, the Director's Report, including the vouchers 141-151 for \$3,024.13 and disbursement of Bullet Grant and NYS Construction for \$46,917.63, was accepted and approved by unanimous vote with the direction that a copy of the Director's Report be maintained in the Library records.

### OLD BUSINESS:

- Bylaw Amendment - Hal Carter made a motion to adopt Amended Bylaws in the form and content presented to the Board at the October 2019 meeting and presented to the Board at this meeting as well. That motion was seconded by Julia Lederman.

Julia Lederman moved to amend the proposed Bylaws to remove Section 4(l) which stated:

The Trustees shall not receive a salary or other compensation when rendering service as a Trustee of the Library and shall not receive any privileges that are not available to all Library patrons.

That motion was seconded by Sharon Mason. The stated reasons for the proposed amendment were:

- the provision is not needed because the Board has other policies covering the same topic;
- the provision would prohibit the Board members from receiving compensation for their services in the future if such compensation is authorized by an entity having the authority to do so; and
- the provision would prohibit the current practice under which overdue fines incurred by Board members are forgiven.

Hal Carter stated that he had a conflict of interest in connection with the proposed amendment because voting in favor of the amendment would result in his deriving "personal profit or gain" in the form of forgiven overdue fees in violation of the requirement of the Library's Conflict of Interest Policy. He said therefore, as required by the Conflict of Interest Policy, he would not be voting on the proposed amendment.

After considerable discussion, the amendment was put to a vote and the Board Members voted on the amendment as follows:

In Favor: Becky Herman, Julia Lederman, Karin Kirk, Sharon Mason

Opposed: None

Abstain: Hal Carter

The amendment was adopted.

No other amendments were proposed. On the vote to adopt the proposed amended Bylaws as amended by removing Section 4(l), the Board Members voted as follows:

In Favor: Becky Herman, Julia Lederman, Karin Kirk, Sharon Mason  
Opposed: None  
Abstain: Hal Carter

The Bylaws as amended were adopted.

Rita McCarthy indicated she will investigate whether the Town Board would specifically permit the members of the Library Board to continue to be forgiven overdue fines or to receive other compensation.

- Awning – The awning is installed and everyone agrees it is a wonderful improvement. Patron feedback has been very positive. The location of the book drop is still being considered and an email to solicit patron ideas has been sent.
- Annual Appeal - To date, the Library Board Fund has received 18 donations totaling \$1,115.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- 2020 Calendar – On motion of Karin Kirk seconded by Becky Herman, the proposed 2020 Rush Public Library Calendar was reviewed and unanimously approved.
- Book Page – The Board has been paying for this publication that discusses and reviews new publications. In view of the elimination of other sources of such information, this is fairly heavily used. One of the comments in the last survey was asking why the Library did not have it. The cost is \$29.00 per month. On motion of Karin Kirk, seconded by Julia Lederman the Board approved the purchase of the subscription for one more year.
- Ribbon Cutting – Efforts are underway to set a new date for the ribbon cutting for the awning since the original ribbon cutting was snowed out.
- Request from the General Public to House Documents in the Library – An extensive discussion occurred about permitting private groups and individuals to house documents in the Library. In the past, only documents issued by governmental agencies and select charitable efforts have been made available in the Library. The Library received a recent request to expand that practice to a community group. Various ideas were proposed for how to handle this issue and concerns were raised, such as how to limit the duration that items would be retained and how to assure that no censorship or discrimination occurs. The recommendation was that the Library create a “governmental shelf” for documents received from governmental agencies and a separate “community shelf” for documents received from non-governmental entities. The entity or individual presenting the documents for inclusion on the community shelf should be clearly identified and the community shelf should bear a disclaimer that the Library does not endorse or vouch for the accuracy of any information or views in such documents. The possibility of the Library Policy Committee developing a more formalized policy for this issue was discussed.

**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE REPORT:** No report.

**LIBRARY POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT:** No Report

**TOWN BOARD LIAISON REPORT:** The Town Election Results are still not finalized. The Town Budget (and consequently the Library Budget) was approved with no changes. The State has taken several steps to alleviate the flooding in the Town and the hope is that it will resolve the issue.

**CALENDAR:** The next regular Board of Trustees’ meeting will be on December 17, 2019 at 7:15 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further matters to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned on motion of Karin Kirk, seconded by Sharon Mason.

Respectfully submitted,  
Hal Carter, Vice President