

Lewisboro Library Board
Annual Meeting Minutes
January 31, 2021

Meeting called to order –

Trustees Present: Nancy Euchner, Colleen McLafferty, Jen Cayea, Elena Dunn, Peter Rose, Priscilla Luckow, Andrew Tedder, Victoria McIlraith, Kevin Fitzmartin

Trustees Absent: Linda Press Wolfe, Jay Luzzi, Melissa LeSauvage

Others Present: Cindy Rubino, Kathy Iglesias, and members of the public

Guest Speaker: Martha Hunt Handler

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from the January 2020 meeting were reviewed. Nancy Euchner made a motion to accept and Kevin seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

The financial performance of the Library exceeded expectations in 2020. Although a very difficult year for the operations of the Library, the year ended with a positive net funding of \$35K.

Despite the pandemic the positive net funding was the result of very generous donations by Library supporters, PPP Funding (Paycheck Protection Plan) in the amount of \$88K, increased Town funding of \$17K and state grants of \$13K over last year.

Operating expenses exceeded 2019 by \$34K. These increases were principally attributed to Salary and Benefits, insurance costs, and approximately \$6K related to ensuring the Library was COVID-19 compliant for visitors and employees.

Nominating Report:

Jenn reported that despite its challenges of the past year, the library board has been able to maintain its 12-member status. The nominating committee is fortunate to continue its mission of appointing a dedicated, diverse and hardworking library board.

Nancy Euchner will continue as Board President, and Jay Luzzi will continue as Vice President into his third term on the board. Elena Dunn will continue as Secretary, and Kevin Fitzmartin will continue to serve as Treasurer.

For the Class of 2021, the Nominating Committee is presenting a slate of 2 candidates: Priscilla Luckow and Veronica McIlwraith. Jen made the motion to approve candidates. Peter seconded. Unanimously approved.

Director's Report:

Cindy reported that 2020 was a challenging year but the Library stepped up to support our community as best as we could while making safety a priority for the staff and our patrons.

The staff pivoted to serving our patrons with curbside pickup which has been operating out of the foyer. There were 3,299 curbside appointments in 2020 since June.

The staff used their creativity and ingenuity to provide adult, children's and teen programs virtually via Zoom or Facebook Live. We also held a few programs outside in person in the summer and utilizing social distancing.

Our biggest change this year was the departure of our wonderful youth services team of children's librarian Anna Moser, who moved to the Midwest to head up the youth services department of a large public library – and teen librarian Dolores Antonetz who retired.

Our new children's librarian is Marie Nania and our new teen librarian is Jane Rothschild. Both are creative and very enthusiastic about their new roles here at our library.

Digital vs print usage in 2020 was 53.4% digital and 47.6% print. In 2019, it was 21.7% digital and 78.3% print.

President's Report:

Nancy reported the enormous financial challenges of 2020:

- The Town understandably, needed to delay our summer funding when our reserves are traditionally at their lowest
- The Cancellation of the Library Fair cost us more than \$40k in anticipated funding
- Our in-person concerts, plays and comedy clubs also fell victim to Covid restrictions

The trustees had to get creative with fundraising ideas. In September- we held the Historic Hamlet Hunt, a self-guided driving tour through many of the historic sites throughout Lewisboro with scenic stops, gifts for children and rich, well researched booklet describing the significance of these local landmarks created by town historian Maureen Koehl and Trustee Priscilla Luckow. Local bakers created delicious high-end desserts for the Pop-Up Bake Sale. A Facebook group was set up for community members to sell their Attic Treasures with proceeds going to the

library. Our virtual wine tasting event will provide a fun and delicious way to celebrate Valentine's Day.

Led by Trustee Linda Press Wolfe, we redoubled our outreach to our dedicated benefactors. We communicated how much their generous gifts meant and how vital they are in keeping the Library functioning—especially in this challenging year.

Although each and every donation is most appreciated, Nancy recognized our Angel Donors of the Year, Clyde and Diane Brownstone and the Brownstone Foundation.

Nancy acknowledged Board vice president Jay Luzzi and the Building in Grounds committee for their thankless tasks that include keeping our building and grounds safe and in tip-top shape, refreshing our beautiful plantings and beds, repairing our walkways, and cataloguing plantings for the many people who ask about our garden.

Nancy thanked and acknowledged retiring Trustee, Richard Sklarin who has served on our board for the past five years. She introduced author Martha Hunt Handler who gave an informative talk about her role at the Wolf Conservation Center and her creative process as the author of the novel *Winter of the Wolf*.

Next Library Board meeting is Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 7:30pm

Minutes taken by Elena Dunn