

Northern New York Library Network
Board of Trustees Meeting
January 13, 2022
Zoom Video Conference

The January 13, 2022 meeting of the Northern New York Library Network Board of Trustees was called to order at 10:02 A.M.

Trustees Present: Andrew Kelly, President; Steve Kenworthy, Secretary; Ginger Tebo, Treasurer; Ellen Adams; Krista Briggs; Gwen Cunningham; Erin Kovalsky; Paulette Roes and Jill Tarabula.

Trustees Absent: Jeff Garvey, Jackie Madison, Jenica Rogers and John Thomas.

Guests: Peggy Rowe, Shannon Forkin and Angela Janack, Dannible & McKee, LLP.

Staff Present: Meg Backus and Phil Jones.

Meg Backus welcomed new board member Paulette Roes and requested those present to introduce themselves.

Agenda

Motion 21/22--20: Jill Tarabula (Steve Kenworthy) moved to approve the agenda for the January 13, 2022 meeting as distributed. Carried unanimously.

Minutes

Motion 21/22--21: Jill Tarabula (Ginger Tebo) moved to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2021 meeting as distributed. Carried unanimously.

Audit Report & Form 990 FY 2020-2021

Peggy Rowe and Angela Janack, Dannible & McKee, LLP reviewed the draft unqualified audit report of the Northern New York Library Network financial statements fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, as prepared by Dannible & McKee, LLP. Shannon Forkin, Dannible & McKee, LLP summarized the draft IRS form 990 of the Northern New York Library Network fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, as prepared by Dannible & McKee, LLP.

Peggy Rowe noted no significant deficiencies were found during their audit of fiscal year 2020-2021.

Motion 21/22--22: Jill Tarabula (Ellen Adams) moved to accept the draft audit as prepared by Dannible & McKee, LLP. Carried unanimously.

Motion 21/22--23: Gwen Cunningham (Krista Briggs) moved to accept the draft IRS Form 990 as prepared by Dannible & McKee, LLP. Carried unanimously.

Financial Reports

The Board reviewed and discussed the financial statements for October 2021 and November 2021. Staff responded to a number of general questions posed by Board members regarding the monthly statements.

Motion 21/22--24: Steve Kenworthy (Jill Tarabula) moved to accept the financial statements for October 2021 and November 2021 as distributed. Carried unanimously.

NNYRC meeting December 1, 2021

Steve Kenworthy gave a brief overview of the NNYRC December 1, 2021 board meeting. He noted the board is moving forward with positioning a portion of the portfolio in investments determined by Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) investment evaluation factors.

Director Report

Meg Backus noted her written report was included in the Board packet. Highlights of current issues include:

We anticipate the budgeted amount for Grants to Member Libraries will be underspent by approximately \$20,000. Creating smaller grants to members was discussed at the last meeting. Due to the commitments required by our ARPA and IMLS grants we have decided not to pursue the project this fiscal year.

Blake Andrew was recently hired as our new Part-time Research Associate. Blake is also the Director of the Chazy Public Library.

Our digital inclusion plan (ARPA) goal is to get 18-20 public libraries to enroll in a 5-week training course with Older Adults Technology Services (OATS) and then deploy a coordinated network of classes for seniors at libraries. As of January 5, 2022 we have 35 libraries interested enough to sign up for an information session on January 18, 8 of which have committed to enrolling fully. This seems on track to succeed, at least in terms of recruitment.

The Annual Member Meeting scheduled for May 5th will be virtual instead of at the Wild Center. Our featured speaker will be Michael Norton, Chief Policy Analyst at the Reinvestment Fund and coauthor of the recent study Understanding the Social Wellbeing Impacts of the Nation's Libraries and Museums.

Attorney Cole Adams has advised us not to make a donation to the library Political Action Committee (PAC) New Yorkers for Better Libraries (NY4BL). She cited the IRS code which states “section 501(c)(3) organizations may not make a contribution to a political organization described in section 527. Nor may such an organization establish and maintain a separate segregated fund under section 527.” Individuals are encouraged to make donations privately and we will share information about upcoming fundraising events.

Library Advocacy Day is scheduled for Wednesday March 2, 2022, it will be fully virtual (again). Network staff are scheduling meetings with our representatives on behalf of all North Country libraries. Information packets are also being designed for distribution to attendees.

Meeting Dates 2021-2022

Board members agreed to the proposed meeting date for 2021-2022.

March 17, 2022 10:00 A.M. - Zoom Video Conference
May 12, 2022 10:00 A.M. - Zoom Video Conference

Adjournment

The Board meeting was adjourned at 11:31 A.M.

The January 13, 2022 meeting minutes were approved at the March 17, 2020 meeting.

◆ Next Board Meeting ◆
March 17, 2022, Thursday, 10:00 AM
Zoom Video Conference