

**Northern New York Library Network
Board of Trustees Meeting
November 16, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 AM.

Trustees Present: Ellen Adams, Jenica Rogers, Steve Kenworthy, Paulette Roes, John Thomas, Justin Cree, Cori Wilhelm, Emily Hastings, Gwen Cunningham, Jill Daby, Sarah Wiseman.

Trustees Absent: Jackie Madison, Krista Briggs, Allison Comes.

Staff Present: Meg Backus, Jennifer Thomas

Agenda

Motion 23/24 - - 12: Jill Daby (Cori Wilhelm) moved to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes

Motion 23/24 - - 13: Steve Kenworthy (Justin Cree) moved to approve the September 18, 2023 meeting minutes as distributed. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Reports

The Board reviewed and discussed the financial reports for September 2023 as presented by Jennifer. It was noted that some budget items highlighted in the Operating Fund Budget Report will be adjusted (Misc Income and Health Insurance). The financial reports for September 2023 were received for filing.

NNYRC September 27th Meeting Report

Minutes from the NNYRC director's meeting were reviewed and discussed, which included news about an updated 990 and CHAR 500 ready for signatures and a financial summary of the NNYRC portfolio. The stock portion of the portfolio was up 9.9% (compared to 17.3% on the S&P 500), due to a focus on dividend paying, stable companies and the screening out of a few 7 mega-cap tech string performers. The bond portion of the portfolio is up 2.4% (compared to 0.3% for the bond aggregate index). Combined, the NNYRC portfolio was up 5.5% YTD after all fees as of 9/15/23. We have a healthy mix of protection built into the portfolio in the form of hedged/buffered stocks and some gold. No recommended changes at the time, but the Directors were told to expect a rebalancing of the portfolio in early November.

Director's Report

Meg Backus noted her written report was included in the Board packet, and members discussed several items. Highlights included:

- A Progress Report on *Libraries In Community Systems*. Interim Report Due 11/30/23. 2 of 3 years complete.

- New ESLN Collaborations around CE will continue except aggregating a schedule of (free) online webinars offered for LAM workers by providers of all kinds across the country is on hold. No bandwidth for this at the moment.
- Added a new Member map to our website, visual directory at <https://nnyln.org/about/members>. We're hearing members want to partner more with each other, local schools, etc. Creating more visibility as a first step toward more collaboration, inviting requests for support or amplification.
- NYLA Conference - Presented NYS Historic Newspapers at ESLN Showcase of Collaborative Resources Available to New York Libraries, and Presented *Libraries in Community Systems* research on a panel with State Librarian Lauren Moore: RAC Vision for Libraries: Looking Ahead
- Petition reform for public and association libraries was signed into law (S3594): A library can now get a vote on a local ballot (if allowed) with 25 signatures, instead of 10% of the total number of votes cast in the municipality for Governor in the last election. This reduction had been in place as a pandemic measure and is now permanent.
- State Report was approved unanimously by an electronic vote of Board of Trustees, submitted October 19, 2023.
- Final ARPA report approved and all funding received.
- Easement conversation has turned into a sale conversation (to fix the functional misalignment of property boundary—neighbor has part of parking lot on NNYLN land. Need valuation of property and legal assistance to complete. Expenses related to the sale should be covered by the purchaser not NNYLN.
- Anti-Harassment Training for Board Members / Investigating Harassment Claims for Managers All board members are asked to complete the Anti-Harassment Training and send to Jennifer a copy of their certificate of completion for filing. Personnel committee members are asked to complete the Investigating Harassment Claims for Managers (a link to this will be sent via email).

The meeting was adjourned by Ellen Adams at 11:39am.

Next Meeting: January 25, 2024; Zoom, 10:00am

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer M Thomas

Minutes Approved at January 25, 2024 Board Meeting