# Town of Esopus Library September Board of Trustees Meeting Wednesday, September 25, 2024

## Agenda

Call to order	Larry Decker
Approval of August Board Meeting Minutes	
Public Comment (2 minutes each)	Public
Treasurer's Report/Finance Committee	Elaine Jaffe
Director's Report	Jesse Chance
Friends	Elaine Rylance

# Committees

- 1. Buildings and Grounds Stephen Lewis
- 2. Governance and Personnel / Trustee Training Martha Farrell
- 3. Sustainability, Research and Development Don Carragher

# Adjournment

**Resolutions:** 

2024-46 – Payment of August Claims 2024-47 – Personnel Actions – M. Genter

# TOWN OF ESOPUS LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES August 28, 2024

Board Members Present: Elaine Jaffe, Elaine Rylance, Don Carragher, Allen Olsen, Stephen Lewis and Larry Decker (arrived at 6:30pm)
Board Members Excused: Laura Petit, Martha Farrell
Board Members Absent:
Staff Present: Mary Garraty, Jesse Chance, Shannon Powell

Public: Sharon Briden, Jamila Khan

The meeting of the Town of Esopus Library Board of Trustees was called to order by Don Carragher at 6:00 p.m.

# **II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Written minutes for the July monthly Board Meeting held on July 24, 2024 was submitted and open for review. A motion to accept the minutes of the July monthly Board meeting held on July 24, 2024 was made by Elaine Jaffe and seconded by Elaine Rylance.
AYE: 5; NO: 0; ABSTAIN: 0
Board Members Excused: Laura Petit, Martha Farrell, Larry Decker
Board Members Absent:

**III. Presidents Word** – Larry Decker None stated at this meeting.

**IV. Public Comment** - Sharon Briden discussed her interest in the Library as a potential Trustee. Jamila Khan also expressed an interest in joining the Board of Trustees.

# V. TREASURER'S REPORT/FINANCE – Elaine Jaffe

Written report was submitted. Elaine Jaffe reviewed the Finance Committee meeting minutes and presented the resolutions listed below. There was a discussion regarding a contingency budget for the future.

Resolution #42 of 2024 (Payment of July Claims): The Board of Trustees of the Town of Esopus Library accepts and approves the payment of claims from July 1, 2024 to July 31, 2024 for items in the amount of \$21,307.13. A motion to accept the resolution was made by Stephen Lewis and seconded by Elaine Rylance.
 AYES: 5; NAYS: 0; ABSTENTIONS: 0
 Board Members Excused: Laura Petit, Martha Farrell, Larry Decker
 Board Members Absent:

- Resolution #43 of 2024 (Health Benefits Plan for 2024-2025): The Board of Trustees of the Town of Esopus Library accepts and approves the CDPHP Bronze Health Benefits Plan for 2024-2025 and authorizes Director, Jesse Chance, to sign the contracts for this plan. A motion to accept the resolution was made by Allen Olsen and seconded by Elaine Rylance. AYES: 5; NAYS: 0; ABSTENTIONS: 0 Board Members Excused: Laura Petit, Martha Farrell, Larry Decker Board Members Absent:
- Resolution #45 of 2024 (Transfer of Funds to MHVFCU): The Board of Trustees of the Town of Esopus Library agrees to open accounts with the Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union and transfer the Reserve Account funds and the Capital Account funds from the Bank of Greene County to the Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union. A motion to accept the resolution was made by Allen Olsen and seconded by Stephen Lewis.
   AYES: 5; NAYS: 0; ABSTENTIONS: 0
   Board Members Excused: Laura Petit, Martha Farrell, Larry Decker
   Board Members Absent:

# VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Jesse Chance

Written reports were submitted from the Director, the Circulation and Programming Manager and the Adult and Teen Programmer. Shannon reviewed her report and noted that Fox secured a \$1000 grant for National Coming Out Day. The summer reading program is complete. The Gallery is exhibiting a number of patron paintings. Jesse reviewed what has happened since he wrote his report. Liberty security came and reconnected the phone in the elevator. They are still working on ways to fix the sump pump of the elevator.

# VII. FRIENDS – Elaine Rylance

Set up for the book sale will be 9/27 at 2:00 p.m. The breakdown will be done on Sunday after the sale is over around 4:00 p.m.

# VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Buildings and Grounds** Stephen Lewis Written report was submitted. Steve Lewis reviewed the meeting minutes. The painting and cabinet work is on hold until next year. The replacement tree work is still in progress.
- Governance and Personnel Martha Farrell
   Written report submitted. Don reviewed the meeting minutes.
  - Resolution #44 of 2024 (Removal of Section 3.2.1 of Personnel Policy Manual): The Board of Trustees of the Town of Esopus Library approves the removal of Section 3.2.1 of the Personnel Policy Manual. A motion to accept the resolution was made by Elaine Jaffe and seconded by Elaine Rylance. AYES: 6; NAYS: 0; ABSTENTIONS: 0 Board Members Excused: Laura Petit, Martha Farrell Board Members Absent:

# • Sustainability, Research and Development - Don Carragher

Written report submitted. Don reviewed the meeting minutes. Don discussed the vision statement for the Construction Grant. Questions were raised about the vision statement. We are upgrading our power source and lighting so that the Library can run when power is out.

# IX. Trustee Training

Trustee Training has been taking place at online sessions.

# X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, Allen Olsen made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Elaine Jaffe. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. AYES: 6; NAYS: 0; ABSTENTIONS: 0 Board Members Excused: Laura Petit, Martha Farrell Board Members Absent:

Prepared by M. Garraty, Secretary to the Town of Esopus Library Board of Trustees

Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2024

Attendance: Don Carragher, Elaine Jaffe, Jesse Chance, Laura Petit, Stephen Lewis

The Committee discussed the general freeze of all projects going forward due to lack of available funding. Don offered to fund (as a loan) the cabinet buildout in the kitchen tentatively slated for late November/December.

Stephen suggested the Finance Committee should explore adding a contingency fund of ??% of the overall budget in the future to deal with unforeseen expenses.

Elaine found a lower bid to remove trees and is moving forward to getting funding from the Friends to facilitate the project.

The garden gate needs to be repaired. A date of September 24th was set to build a pad for the other garden shed.

Don cleared the area by the panel meter and cutoff switch.

We discussed the elevator problem and reviewed the bid Jesse received from Bell Plumbing

Submitted by Stephen Lewis, chair

Next Building and Grounds Committee Meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2024 at 4:00 pm

# **Director's Report September, 2024**

After one full year as your library director I am pleased to report that things are going well. There is so much work to be done still but let's face it: there always will be. However, unlike other libraries in the system who will remain nameless, Esopus Library does not have several major issues that are just languishing with nothing being done about them. It has been wonderful working with a Board and staff who are always looking to perfect this little repository of knowledge and information and I look forward to getting a little closer to that goal with all of you in the coming years.

# Ongoing and/or Completed Business:

**Elevator Issues:** As you all should be aware from previous reports, our elevator has had a few issues recently. Specifically, we discovered that the sump pump isn't working and also the phone was not connecting to the outside world. We have had the phone fixed, but getting the sump pump replaced has been a bit of a saga. Rather I should say that we thought we had the phone fixed but a new issue has cropped up. Liberty Security came out and ran a line through the ceiling connecting the elevator phone to our fax line. We tested it and everything worked fine. Then one morning I was riding the elevator when a fax message was sent to the library's fax line. Let me tell you, hearing that old fax connection screech coming from the elevator speaker when you are in it is kind of frightening. Not dangerous, just scary. I will have to have Liberty Security come back and connect the elevator phone to our phone line 2 rather than the fax line.

Regarding the sump-pump: it was looking as though we were going to have to pay an Otis Elevator mechanic an unbelievable amount of money per hour to come and put the elevator in a suspended state while a plumber worked on it. Then Carl Bell Plumbing got back to me saying that they have worked in our elevator pit before and they have no problem with locking off the elevator themselves. Furthermore, Carl Bell has offered his educated opinion that it's just the pump that needs to be replaced and not the whole system. Our \$6,000 plus problem has shrunk to just shy of \$2,000. We now await Carl having time in his schedule to get our job done.

**Solar Power Array Upgrade Project:** Our Project Manager Dan as well as technicians from Liberty Solar (the company that did the original installation back in 2009) came for a site visit on August 28<sup>th</sup>. While here they noted that all solar panels are in remarkably good shape after 15 years as is the roof. There were tree branches overhanging certain panels as well as wires dangling below other panels. The two major problems they found were a missing fuse for one of the strings and some loose connecting wires in the junction box. The loose wires are suspected to have caused a fuse to blow a couple years ago. Solar Alchemy replaced that one when they were here a couple of years ago and it hasn't blown since. There seems to be no good explanation for the missing fuse.

Our next steps according to Dan are to have Liberty Solar come address the dangling wires and replace the missing fuse so that we can see if our system is stable and so that we can collect data over a period of time to get a picture of how much power our system is producing on average. Once we know those things we will be able to determine how much we need to add to meet the Library's power needs during an extended black-out.

# Upcoming:

**Removal of "Weed Trees":** Tom Cuff, our lawn mowing and snow removal contractor, has offered to remove all of the so called weed trees (black walnuts, immature locusts, and a catalpa tree) from the lower part of the grounds and around the pond for a small addition of \$350 to his annual mowing bill. Since this is extremely reasonable for the amount of work he is offering, I agreed. Work will be completed sometime in the next two weeks.

**Removal of Bradford Pear Trees and 'Burning Bushes':** After much talk and no action, we are finally ready to get those invasive trees and bushes removed from the grounds. Top Notch Tree Care has agreed to do the work for \$1,100 and that includes stump grinding. The Memorial Tree Fund, a sub-group of the Ulster Garden Club and which Elaine Rylance is affiliated with, has agreed to reimburse the Library for the cost of this removal. I was quite pleased to learn that the pear trees near the community garden are not Bradford pear trees and are therefore not invasive. No need to remove those. Dylan of Top Notch Tree Care will be letting me know when they can get to work in the next few days.

**Second Shed Platform:** The heat has finally broken and laying a second foundation for a small shed to stand on in the community gardens is no longer cruel and unusual punishment. Don and I plan to get that done on or around September 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Ecological Restoration Grant:** Partners for Climate Action: Hudson Valley has announced that their 2024-2025 grant cycle has opened. This year they are prioritizing pollinator protection and nurturing as well as reforestation. I attended an info session on 9/16 and didn't hear anything that disqualifies us. We can and should apply and I look forward to hearing from Board members who would like to help me do that this year.

**Enhancing Emergency Broadband Access Grant:** The Ulster County Citizens Commission for Digital Inclusion and the Office of the Ulster County Comptroller has announced a grant opportunity provided by the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley, in collaboration with Ulster County. This grant is aimed at enhancing emergency

broadband access across our community. I applied, requesting \$5,000 to assist Esopus Library with continuing and possibly expanding our WiFi Hotspot lending program. We should have a response by November.

# Continuing Education and Community Outreach:

**Fiber Optic Connections and E-Rate Discounts:** On August 30<sup>th</sup> I attended an informational zoom meeting with representatives of Crown Castle Fiber Optics to learn about the grant opportunities available to assist us with eventually switching over to fiber. Presently, it would take a larger initial investment than we can afford, but when we are in a better position, there are grants and discounts available that will allow us to recoup our initial investment.

**Charitable Gaming at the Library:** On September 9<sup>th</sup> I attended a webinar put on by NY State regarding charitable gaming and public libraries to make sure I am up to date on the regulations. I'm happy to report that not much has changed and we are still eligible without need for a permit to have a raffle so long as it doesn't pull in more than \$5,000.

**Ulster County Library Association Annual Dinner:** Don Carragher, Elaine Jaffe, and Fox North joined me in attending this event held locally it the Front Street Tavern on September 10th. The speaker was the librarian who had been instrumental in realizing the Brooklyn Public Library's initiative to make banned books available electronically to any teenager in America and the topic was fascinating. She got me thinking that we (Esopus Library) should at the very least be reviewing our requirements to get a library card. All in all, it was a great networking opportunity and we did so.

Town of Esopus Honeybee Jubilee Community Day: This past Sunday we represented the Library at Ross Park during the Environmental Board's Honeybee Jubilee Community Day. A lot of calendars and free back-packs were given out and several opportunities to collaborate with local organizations were discussed. It was good to get out there and mingle with the community and us being seen doing so is a valuable contribution to the way we are perceived by our community. We will continue to take advantage of as many networking opportunities like this as is feasible.

Respectfully submitted, Jesse Chance, Director

# FINANCIAL COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 12, 2024

Attending: Elaine Jaffe, Chair; Laura Petit; Allen Olsen

We reviewed the expenses as of August 31,2024 in the amount of \$28,366.15.

We reviewed the P&L.

We approve the raise for Marylin Genter in the amount of .75/hour retroactive to July 15, 2024.

Allen will review grant policies for a third bank for Library funds.

We decided to break the landscaping issue into initially 3 parts for grant possibilities: Islands; Front of Building; Pond Area.

Laura will explore grants for native and pollinator gardens.

Submitted by Elaine Jaffe

Next meeting is Wednesday, October 9th at 10 a.m.

Governance and Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2024

Present: Martha Farrell (Chair) Jesse Chance, Elaine Rylance

Absent: Larry Decker

It was decided that each month this committee will review 8 policies in the Personnel Policy Manual. Currently there are approximately 75 policies that have not been reviewed since 2014. It is hoped that after 12 months the Personnel Policy Manual will be more up to date.

The issue of Jesse's annual review was discussed. Martha agreed to scan and send the director's annual review form to all board members and request they fill it out and return it by the next board meeting on September 25th. The results can be reviewed and discussed with the Finance Committee members so Jesse's contract can be extended and an appropriate financial compensation extended.

Submitted by

Martha Farrell

The next Governance and Personnel Committee is scheduled to meet on October 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm

Town of Esopus Library Sustainability, Research & Development Committee Sept. 11, 2024 4:00 pm Attending: Jesse Chance, Steve Lewis, Martha Farrell, Don Carragher Excused: Larry Decker

Facility User's Manual: We discussed the possible structure for a Trustee Guide for maintenance of the building operations. Jesse has found many of the original manuals and Don is familiar with the blueprints. Steve offered that even a room-by-room outline of equipment and materials in each would be a good start.

Elevator Sump Repairs: Jesse, Steve and Don had attended the Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting where the estimated cost of repairs of the sump pump did not reflect the exact pump installed. Don pulled out the blueprints and Jesse found the elevator binders. The group went through the materials and the original pump was identified.

This info will be supplied to vendors for more accurate cost estimates.

Submitted by Don Carragher

Next meeting: Wed Oct. 9 at 4:00 p.m.

# September Programming Report

Hello all! This month is a bit different, as programming has just resumed after a short break inbetween Summer Reading and Back to School.

As mentioned last month, our Summer Reading Program was very successful; the number of participants after a few late entries actually exceeded the previous year (which was our highest to date), and the number of books read and minutes logged also broke records for highest participation. With Fox' assistance, I finished the Summer Reading Report and submitted it to MHLS to forward the statistics onto NYS.

This break in time also gave me the opportunity to provide coverage on desk, as Staff and Jesse wrapped up vacations, and complete my programming calendar for the remainder of the year. I am excited to say that each month is full of engaging story times, fun STEAM experiments, and creative crafting sessions; there are many opportunities to engage with our youngest patrons and continue to instill a lifelong love of reading and learning in our youth.

This month: I held a STEM building challenge, where kids could create towers out of marshmallows, toothpicks, straws, pretzels and twine. First, kids designed their "plans" and hypothesized which would be strongest: large marshmallows or mini marshmallows. Then, they got hands-on in building. I learned through our experiment that next time I will allow the marshmallows to go a little stale, as that might assist in the longevity of the project 😜.

We also hosted local picture book author, Stephanie Seales, who read kids her book, *My Daddy is a Cowboy*. Her book is both the first children's book about the Compton Cowboys, as well as the first picture book with a Panamanian protagonist. After the story, Stephanie led the children in making Panamanian style Mola art on paper. We are fortunate to have such a talented storyteller residing in our area, and I can't wait to welcome them back to our library soon.

Regularly scheduled story times resume this Tuesday and Wednesday. I also have Graphic Novelist, Matt Holm, coming to lead tweens in creating fun characters for comics. This is a popular program that often has a robust and enthusiastic crowd. We also will be resuming Lego creation hour, a Design Yer Pirate Flag program in honor of Talk Like a Pirate Day (complete with a pirate flag to fly from the flagpole outside), and a shrinky-dink crafting hour.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon



# Teen and Adult Programming Report - September

- Happy fall! Our August numbers closed out at 248 patrons, down two from July's 250. We're exactly on track for similar numbers this month.
   August attendance to date: 156 patrons as of 9/16/2024
- Adult Programming Ongoing Groups The library has continued to host several ongoing groups in the library's community room our popular and long-running Afternoon and Reader's Choice Book Club, the Esopus Artists Group, the Ulster County Photo Club, our Needlework Circle and our Mah-jongg Group. The Mah-jongg Group is to be commended for their flexibility, as they've agreed to move their longstanding meeting a half hour later to better accommodate Chair Yoga (see below)
  - Duck Pond Gallery We're hosting the Ulster County Photo Club in the Duck Pond Gallery in September, and our Needlework Circle in October, filling in for an artist who had to reschedule for 2025 – a nice example of the symbiotic relationship between our ongoing groups and the library. The Photo Club's opening reception was a smashing success, with 28 attendees on a lovely Saturday morning and a delicious carrot cake. A certain programmer was invited to partake; future carrot cake invites are welcome.
  - Body series Everyone rejoice. Chair Yoga has at long-last returned to the Town of Esopus library! With 23 attendees, conditions are a bit crowded in the community room, but at least they're a peaceful group. Class members and other patrons have requested more Acupressure & Self-Massage with Erin Reilly after Chair Yoga concludes.
  - Classes, readings, and workshops This September, keep an eye out for local horror writer Sam Rebelein, presenting on local influences on his horror works, and poet Jerrice Baptiste who will read during our Friends of the Library book sale. We've already featured a preserving summer flowers workshop with Jessica Williams, and will have her back for an October witch's broom craft, and we'll soon feature a Medicaid workshop with our own Elaine Jaffe. Additional upcoming events include a concert of covers from the British Invasion by library favorite, cellist Alex Prizgintas, and a Cocoa & Canvas event with Tara Fedele our non-alcoholic version of a sip'n paint.

# • Teen Programming

Classes, Readings, and Workshops Call me the pied piper of Esopus; I continue to lure teenagers into the library. At the end of September, we'll be visited by tween horror author Dan Poblocki and also feature a Bullet Journaling workshop with Michele Diamanti. She'll be returning in October for a 4-hour Saturday babysitting intensive. This week, a local parent will host an informational session for our Dungeons & Dragons & Pizza groups for teens and tweens, which will begin meeting regularly at the library in October. Also for October, we'll be hosting an all-ages National Coming Out Day Open Mic and Musical Performance featuring musician They Love Them; for this, the library has been granted a DEI mini-grant from the Mid Hudson Library System. Do consider coming out in support!

Respectfully submitted,

Fox North

### **RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF THE TOWN OF ESOPUS LIBRARY**

#### **RESOLUTION 46 OF 2024**

# Payment of Claims August 1, 2024 to August 31, 2024

WHEREAS, the total of all claims for payment, excluding wages and taxes, from August 1, 2024 to August 31, 2024 is \$28,366.15.

WHEREAS, the Board has agreed to purchase all goods and services

WHEREAS, funds from the operating budget will be used to pay these claims

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of the Town of Esopus Library accepts and approves the payment of these August 1, 2024 to August 31, 2024 items in the amount of \$28,366.15.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Moved	: <u>Allen</u>	olsen	Seconded: _	Don Carragh	N
VOTE:	Ayes: <u>8</u>	Nays:	Abstentions:	Excused:	Absent: _

Approved by the Board this Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Larry Decker, Board President

Approving Signature:

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Page 1

8:45 AM

09/05/24 Accrual Basis

# Town of Esopus Library Check Listing As of August 31, 2024

Туре	Date	Num	Name	Memo	CIr	Split	Credit
Check	08/31/2024	4903	Ingram Library Services	V24-0419		A7410 410 Aduit Non-Fiction	211 18
Check	08/31/2024	4904	Ingram Library Services	V24-0420		A7410.410 Juvenile Non-Fiction	F0 21
Check	08/31/2024	4905	Amazon	V24-0421		A7410.412 Family DVD	55 90
Check	08/31/2024	4906	Amazon	V24-0422		A7410.412 Adult DVD	158 80
Check	08/31/2024	4907	Friends of the Town of Esopus Library	V24-0423 EXCH		A9855 Friends Exp. Exchange	316.65
Check	08/31/2024	4908	Shamrock Cleaners	V24-0424		A7410.452 Cleaning Services	1 280 00
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Total 20	Total 2020 Bank of GC Checking 6086	Checking 6086					28,864.20
Total A020	Total A0200 Cash Operating Fund	y Fund					28,864.20
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# Resolution of the Board of the Town of Esopus Library

# **Resolution 47 of the Year 2024**

### **Personnel Actions**

Recommended By Dire

Director

Pending Personnel Action Detailed in table below.

Name/Number	Civil Service Title	Type of Action	Effective Date(s)	Wages
Marilyn Genter	Circulation Clerk	Retrofit Pay (205 Hrs. @ \$.50)*	07/15/24	\$102.50 (less taxes and deductions)
		*Note: pay raise \$17.60 current hourly rate + \$.50 raise = \$18.10 new hourly rate		
Shannon Powell	Circulation and Programming Manager	Resignation	10/4/24	n/a

**Action Requested** 

**MOVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Town of Esopus Library District approve the personnel actions listed above

Motion	Moved	Elaine Rylance
	Seconded	Elaine Jaffe
Result of Action	In Favor	8
	Against	<u> </u>
	Abstaining	<u> </u>
	Excused	_ <b>\$</b>
	Absent	<u> </u>

Approved by the Board this Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Janey Walen Larry Decker, President Approving Signature: