

**Ballston Community Public Library**  
**Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
**May 31, 2023**

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by President Julia Stone.

**Attendance:** []Rebecca Verhayden, Director; []Jenn Richard, Adult Services Librarian, []Alyssa Harvey, Youth Services Librarian.

Trustees present: Bill Bechtel, Steve Burchett, Ed Guider, Kate Schofield, Carolyn Speenburgh, Julia Stone, Sue Tomlinson

Trustees excused: none

Trustees unexcused: none

Town Representatives: Mike Carota

**Minutes of April 26, 2023:** A motion to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2023 monthly meeting was made by Carolyn Speenburgh and seconded by Steve Burchett, and passed unanimously.

**Report of Special Funds:** Special funds for May 2023 were reviewed.

**Monthly Financial Reports:** Financial reports for May 2023 were reviewed.

**Approval of Bills:** The April bills, reviewed by Kate Schofield, were unanimously approved on a motion by Steve Burchett, with second by Julia Stone.

**Librarians' Reports:** See attached.

**Reports of Committees:**

**Town Liaisons:** Councilman Carota reported that the legislative update to the Library's charter has gone to a third reading in the Senate. He is looking forward to participating in Summer Reading with his child.

**Personnel:** There will be two resolutions presented tonight regarding staffing. Trustees will consider appointing Samantha Nielsen as part-time Page, and Melissa Owen as part-time Library Clerk.

**Nominating:** Carolyn Speenburgh presented a draft slate of officers for 2023-2024. Trustees are asked to consider the slate and come prepared to vote on it in the June monthly meeting. Proposed slate: for President, Julia Stone; for Vice President, Carolyn Speenburgh; for Treasurer, Steve Burchett; for Secretary, Kate Schofield.

**Budget & Finance:** The Budget & Finance Committee has begun examining the budget spreadsheet and populating it with current figures. A Budget & Finance committee meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, June 1, at 1pm.

**Unfinished Business:**

**Local History & Lighting Construction Project:** A broken light fixture still needs to be replaced. The final construction report to NYS and final payment are due on June 30. The heating problem with unit 6 has been diagnosed and corrected by Roland J. Down. A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Local History Room was held on May 31 at 6pm. Trustees, former trustees, Town of Ballston supervisor Eric Connolly, Town of Charlton Supervisor Joe Grasso, Town of Ballston Councilman Mike Carota, architect for the project Lisa Hayes, library staff and members of the public were in attendance. Refreshments were served after the ceremony.

**Ballston Legislation & Transition:** Director Verhayden reported that the legislation to update our charter unanimously passed in the State Senate. In the Assembly, the bill has been referred to Ways and Means.

Report to the Public: Trustees reviewed the Annual Report to the Public. A vote will be taken to approve it under New Business.

**New Business:**

SALS Trustee of the Year: Former Trustees Steve Zarelli and Tom Shaginaw were named Trustees of the Year at the SALS Annual Meeting and dinner on May 15. The library is very appreciative of their efforts toward getting our charter updated.

Upcoming Trustee Vacancies 2023-2028: Trustees will vote tonight to recommend Ed Guider to the Town of Ballston to serve as Library Trustee for a five-year term beginning July 1, 2023. There will be an open Trustee position as of July 1, 2023 as Sue Tomlinson is completing the second of her two five-year terms. Trustees are encouraged to contact people they know who might be interested in serving.

Rebranding & Marketing: The Library has earmarked \$6,000 in the 2023 budget to hire professional help in redesigning the Library's logo to reflect our name as per originally chartered, the Ballston Community Public Library. Two new committees will be formed, Communication and Election. If legislation passes, this will allow the trustees to further communicate with the public on that progress as well as begin the election process. Director Verhayden will reach out to two local business professionals and request that they provide a portfolio and pricing quote for our consideration.

*Privilege of the floor ONLY on items for consideration and action this evening. (limit 3 mins.)*  
None.

**RESOLUTION 23-043** Consider approving monthly Transition Status Report to the Town of Ballston. Motion was made by Sue Tomlinson, seconded by Steve Burchett, and passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION 23-044** Consider appointing Ed Guider to the following Board of Trustee Committees: Building and Grounds, Personnel, and Long-Range Plan. Motion was made by Carolyn Speenburgh, seconded by Julia Stone, and passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION 23-045** Consider appointing Melissa Owen to the part-time position of Library Clerk, effective June 6 at an hourly rate of \$14.50. Motion was made by Kate Schofield, seconded by Carolyn Speenburgh, and passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION 23-046** Consider appointing Samantha Nielsen to the part-time position of Page, effective June 1 at an hourly rate of \$14.20. Motion was made by Kate Schofield, seconded by Steve Burchett, and passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION 23-047** Consider approving 2022 Annual Report to the Public. Motion was made by Julia Stone, seconded by Bill Bechtel, and passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION 23-048** Be it resolved that the Board of the Trustees of the Ballston Community Public Library does recommend Edward Guider to the Town of Ballston Board for appointment as Library Trustee for the available term effective July 1, 2023-June 30, 2028. Motion was made by Julia Stone, seconded by Kate Schofield, and passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION 23-049** Consider approving up to \$150 for the Local History Room Ribbon Cutting costs which will come from the Trustee Fund. Motion was made by Carolyn Speenburgh, seconded by Steve Burchett, and passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION 23-050** Consider appointing Carolyn Speenburgh and Bill Bechtel to the following Board of Trustee Legislative Committee: Election. Motion was made by Sue Tomlinson, seconded by Carolyn Speenburgh, and passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION 23-051** Consider appointing Steve Burchett, Ed Guider and Kate Schofield to the following Board of Trustee Legislative Committee: Communication. Motion was made by Ed Guider, seconded by Bill Bechtel, and passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION 23-052** WHEREAS, reading is a foundational skill, critical to future learning and to exercising our democratic freedoms; and

WHEREAS, libraries provide access to books that offer teachable moments for readers of all ages and expand our understanding of people with different backgrounds, ideas, and beliefs; and

WHEREAS, books are tools for understanding complex issues; and

WHEREAS, limiting young people's access to books does not protect them from life's complex and challenging issues; and

WHEREAS, young people deserve to see themselves reflected in a library's collection; and  
WHEREAS, librarians are professionals trained to not impose their own thoughts and opinions on which ideas are right, but to make knowledge and ideas available so that people have the freedom to choose what to read; and  
WHEREAS, removing and banning books from public libraries or public schools is a slippery slope to government censorship and the erosion of our country's commitment to freedom of expression; and  
WHEREAS, a large majority of Americans across the political spectrum oppose book bans; and  
WHEREAS, librarians are professionals trained to not impose their own thoughts and opinions on which ideas are right, but to make knowledge and ideas available so that people have the freedom to choose what to read;  
WHEREAS, book bans harm communities; then  
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Library Trustees of the Ballston Community Public Library endorse the following statement:  
Individuals should be trusted to make their own decisions about what they read and believe. Further, parents should not be making decisions for other parents' children about what they read. We are united against book bans.  
THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we as Ballston Community Public Library will act to protect the rights of all to access a variety of books, in schools, in libraries, in bookstores, online, and elsewhere. Motion was made by Bill Bechtel, seconded by Carolyn Speenburgh, and passed unanimously.

*Privilege of the floor on any topic:*

None.

**New Business:**

Trustee Bill Bechtel is a member of Saratoga Arts, which leases their building from the city of Saratoga Springs. Bill offered to investigate that arrangement to explore how our library might effect a similar agreement with the Town of Ballston.

**Adjournment:** At 8:30 p.m., on a motion by Steve Burchett with second by Kate Schofield, trustees voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.