

North Greenbush Public Library Trustee Meeting Minutes

Present:

Joan Behan
Ken Bogdan
Carole Constantine
Peggy Derevlany

Jim Greenfield
Jean Holmes
Melissa Miller
Midge Rogers

Absent:

Samara Boland
Lucy Owens

Ellen Kostroff

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m. on August 5 by Ken Bogdan.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Joan Behan, seconded by Jim Greenfield, the minutes of the May meeting were approved unanimously.

Old Business

Reopening Update

The board reviewed the update as submitted in Mary Klimack's Director's Report, and came to the consensus that given the Covid resurgence in Rensselaer County, we will remain at Step 5 as defined in our reopening plan.

Children's Room Update

Flooring samples are available for inspection on the table at the back of the children's room. The project engineer will tour the space and evaluate the electrical service.

Location Committee Report

The location committee met on July 9, with Samara Boland, Jean Holmes, Mary Klimack and Midge Rogers in attendance.

Jean Holmes presented very interesting statistics regarding development in North Greenbush, with 638 new housing units currently approved and in construction and 391 units in proposed future developments. The net approximate population increase is 4,575 new residents. Developments include condominiums, rental apartments and single family homes. Locations are distributed throughout the town.

Jean also presented a map of the town, showing the location of our current library, which is close to the northeast border of the town. A more central location would be preferable. A PDF is incorporated into these minutes as an attachment. The map will be mailed to trustees who requested a hard copy.

Reviewing the map, it appears that a Route 4 location would be more central and convenient for our residents. Peggy Derevlany will contact RPI to inquire about availability and cost of land in the Tech Park.

The committee plans to meet during September, date to be determined.

New Business

2022 Budget

The finance committee, comprising Jim Greenfield and Jean Holmes, prepared the 2022 budget, which Jim presented at the meeting. The committee recommends a 1.5% increase in the levy. Upon motion by Peggy Derevlany, seconded by Jean Holmes, the board unanimously approved the proposed budget with a total levy of \$324,681.

North Greenbush Public Library Trustee Meeting Minutes

Trustee Elections

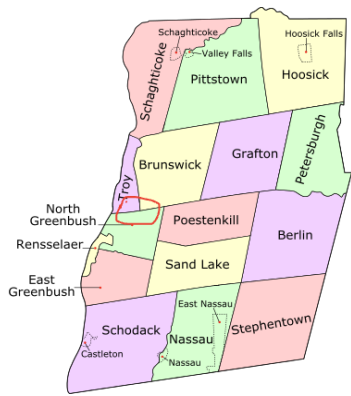
Midge Rogers and Peggy Derevlany's terms expire at the end of 2021. Both indicated a willingness to continue as trustees and will be placed on the ballot for the September 9 election.

Director's Report

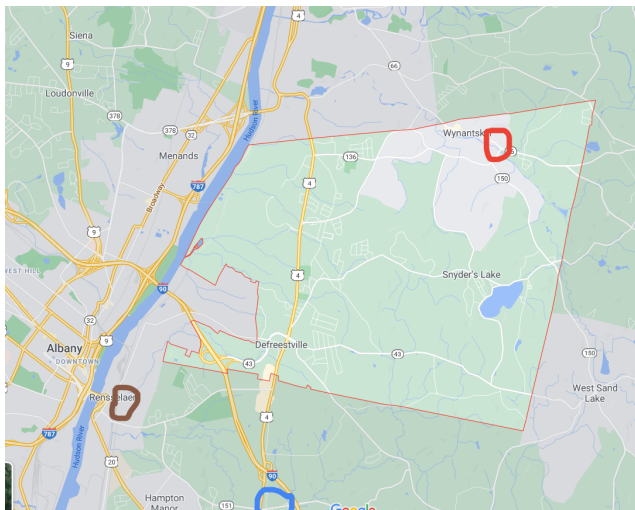
Mary Klimack provided the director's report prior to the meeting. The written director's report is incorporated into these minutes by reference. A copy will be filed with the minutes.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. upon motion by Peggy Derevlany, seconded by Joan Behan and unanimously approved.

Minutes prepared by Peggy Derevlany, Secretary



Our library is very close to the convergence of Troy, Brunswick, Poestenkill and the Town of North Greenbush. In the map below, the thin red line outlines the North Greenbush town lines and the darker red circle indicates basically where the library is located within the town. The current library is on the very edge of our library district boundaries. The blue circle outlines basically where the East Greenbush Library is and the brown circle indicates the city of Rensselaer's library.



North Greenbush Public Library
Director's Report
August 5, 2021

Reopening Updates: With all the changes to the various State and Federal COVID restrictions since June 7th, we need to reassess our reopening document. I think it is time to move to Step 6 (which brings back some chairs, one seated computer station, limited in-person programming and possibly the return of our library volunteers.) However, I suggest we continue with our mask requirement for now. As many of you know, at the June meeting I was recommending dropping the mask requirement so that the staff would no longer need to be the mask police. However, in the five weeks since the June meeting, I have been reconsidering this. The increase in the Delta variant has not hit the capital district too badly *yet* but rates in our county have started to increase a bit again. Here is a link to a tracker that is kept up-to-date:

https://covidactnow.org/us/new_york-ny/county/rensselaer_county/?s=21051026

If we remove our mask requirement now, there will be no going back if the numbers increase again. So I recommend that we stick with the masks for now and discuss it at each monthly board meeting. If the numbers begin to improve again, we can always revisit dropping the requirement. For now, most of our regular patrons have gotten used to it and most un-masked patrons willingly accept our masks. We have a few patrons that do not wear a mask and I have told the staff not to argue or engage with these patrons. Let them get what they need and move on. This has helped reduce the mask confrontations considerably.

If we move to Step 6, there are two items to consider:

1. Do we begin charging for copies/faxes/prints? If we do begin charging, then we should make the official announcement that we will remain completely fine free.
2. Do we allow our volunteers to return to their shifts? I will happily welcome our volunteers back but we would need to make sure that they would feel comfortable wearing their mask for the duration of their shift.

Children's Room Update: Some flooring samples have arrived! We are waiting for a few other luxury vinyl tile options to arrive. I have the samples out on the table in the back corner of the children's room. Feel free to stop by whenever we're open if you would like to take a look. We are also waiting for the Engineer from Butler, Rowland and Mays to come to tour the space and look at the electric panel, etc. I will let you know when they are coming. We may also want to involve someone from the Town at that point?

UHLS Updates: UHLS has challenged its staff and member libraries to partake in the 21 Day Equity Challenge which is being sponsored by the United Way of the Greater

Capital Region. The 21-Day Equity Challenge was a series of daily prompts designed to help us discover how racial injustice and social injustice impact our community, and to identify actionable ways to dismantle racism and other forms of discrimination. I signed up and completed the challenge for our library. I found the emails and articles/links very informative and thought provoking.

May & June Circulation: Circulation trends remain normal. It will be interesting to watch the circulation stats over the summer now that it is easier to get into the library to browse. Our Grab 'N Go numbers have steadily dropped as more people are happily coming into the library to browse and pick up their books. We still have 1 or 2 Grab N Go picks up per day though. Weeding continues in the the children's room as well as some of the adult collection. I have also attached the second quarter eContent report that shows the circulation of our digital content. Our digital content circulation continues to climb.

Misc: Summer Reading is on! We have had a great response with lots of registrations among our children, teens and adults. We have awarded 2 sets of raffle prizes already with 2 more scheduled before we wrap up on August 21st. Thank you to the Friends of the NGPL for the donation of \$150 to help us with the raffle prizes. We have hosted 2 outdoor "programs"--a Chalk the Walk event and an outdoor scavenger hunt. Both programs have been enjoyed by a handful of families. Our Teddy Bear sleepover took place on July 21st and several young patrons really enjoyed dropping off their stuffed animals for a sleepover. You can view the Sleepover Shenanigans on our [YouTube](#) page. I am pleased with the post COVID programming turn out so far. We have another Chalk the Walk event coming in August as well as an indoor Scavenger Hunt. The indoor hunt will take place throughout the day so it should not be too crowded at any one point. Our StoryWalk is also almost complete (I am hoping that it will be complete before I go on vacation.) The walk runs down along the library side of the building. Make sure to check it out next time you stop by.