

Sharon Springs Free Library Board of Trustees
Annual Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2022

Present

Trustees: Jeanne Irwin, Gina Gilbert, Belinda Feris, Bob Fucci, Kerry Parsons, Tonja Law, Patsy Nicosia, Kate Walrath

Staff: Helen Thomas, JoAnn Fralick, Joyce Slater

Absent

Trustees: Susan Rorick

Call to Order

The annual meeting of the Sharon Springs Free Library was called to order at 7:03p.m. on November 3, 2022 by President Jeanne Irwin.

Director's Report (attached)

President Irwin introduced the Directors Annual Report

Presentation of 2023 Budget

- Presentation of proposed budget-Tonya noted an increase in salary and heating costs.
- After much discussion the proposed budget will be reviewed by the Budget Committee and an updated budget will be presented at the December meeting.

Election of Trustees

- All Trustees have agreed to serve another Term and

ON A MOTION MADE AND SECONDED the list of trustees will remain unchanged (Belinda/Kerry)

Election of Officers

ON A MOTION MADE AND SECONDED the current slate of officers will remain in place for another year (Patsy/Bob)

Committee Assignments

President Irwin distributed a list of committees and each board member was asked to sign up for at least one committee for the coming year.

Adjourn

President Irwin adjourned annual meeting 8:17pm

Director's Annual Report October 2022
Submitted by Helen Thomas

Regular Book Discussions

October – Prodigal Summer by Barbara Kingsolver,
November – The Moonlight School by Suzanne Woods,
January – News of the World by Paulette Jiles,
February – An Extraordinary Union by Alyssa Cole,
March – Blessings by Anna Quindlen,
April – The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles,
May -- The Lake of Dreams by Kim Edwards 5 attended
June – Educated, a Memoir,” by Tara Westover, 7 attended
July – The Other Einstein, by Marie Benedict, 5 attended
August – The Lions of Fifth Avenue by Fiona Davis, 6 attended
September – “The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid by Bill Bryson, 4 attended

Adult Programming

We started the Great Book Giveaway on October 2 and kept it open until November 1.
We had a Poetry Festival Workshop and a NYSCA Short Story Writing Workshop on Oct 16.
We had NYSCA money for two writing workshops (10/16 and 11/20)
Winter Short Story Writing Contest for Schoharie County residents 12/21/21 to 2/19/22 Times
Journal did a full-page spread and published both adult and junior category stories.
The Parsons presented “Not Your Mama’s Brussels sprouts.” (Nov 13)
Graphics, Comics and Manga (1/22/22)
Building a garden stone
NYSCA Pen & Ink, Prof Belflower’s writing workshop 3/19 and 4/9/22 “Checkov’s Gun” (5
attended each)

Virtual Programming

Miscellaneous Crafts and Tech Savy sessions were sponsored but had poor attendance.

Children’s Programming

SRP 2022 theme “Oceans of Possibilities” announced in fall 2021, Conducted 7/9 through 8/13
(Utuca Zoomobile, NYS Fish hatchery, Art Instructor) supported by MVLS and Stewart’s Stores
Story Time with crafts in person with JoAnn Fralick every Thursday at 10 has grown to require
additional staffing.

Ongoing Issues/Concerns/Accomplishments

We began sending personal invitations to individual donors each month to attend board meetings
New brochure created in Canva with MVLS assistance, printed by Canva
Patron book reviews were solicited but interest was low
Efforts to switch to the school budget begun in fall 2021 stalled in January 2022 over
complexities of WalMart PILOT, Efforts to get on Town Ballot for increase considered but were
not accomplished
Decision to review children’s books for diversity awareness was received well by all.

A budget was developed (May) to spend the \$5000 we received in Advocacy funds to support the move to the school budget.

Month by Month

October 2021

Directors' Council 10/7/21 Pandemic issues linger (Omicron) were discussed. Some libraries have abridged hours, some have closed temporarily, some require masks (SCP per the county others by library policy).

November – December 2021

Sharon Springs Free Library carts marched in the Parade of Lights at 6:00 p.m. December 10th. and handed out children's books.

Gina took down the old "bulletin board" and patched and painted the wall. Paint party Sunday, December 5th by Rotarians painted the library for us.

Susan Parsons donated \$10,000 for collection development in December in honor of her parents. Our annual fundraising campaign targeted previous donors instead of a mass mailing.

Our patron, Turner Roach of Sharon Springs, assembled and displayed his Lego Winter Village. A monthly newsletter was offered on the circ desk.

January, 2022

Director's Council concerns Minimum Standards for hours - don't worry if you have to close for Covid

NYS Annual Report - There were questions about whether your Pandemic Response plan is on your website and new programming data questions.

The Sharon Springs Free Library Short Story Contest for residents of Schoharie County is opened in winter with a spring deadline. Two categories; adult and under 16.

Winning submissions were published in the Times Journal with an interview with winners.

At the MVLS board meeting, Advocacy grants approved \$2500 to COB and SHS, \$1000 to FTH

February, 2022

We were closed for 2 days, 2/4/22 was a snow day. 2/21/22 was Presidents' Day

Tax levy check received from Town 2/22/22 \$43,860.00

JoAnn was on vacation 2/4/22 through 2/25/22. Joyce and Helen covered the hours.

Gina bought a fireproof lockbox for personnel files.

March

SHS Went Fine Free as of 3/1/22

Surveyed patrons online and on paper

Received \$900 from Stewart's Make a wish

April

A monthly events calendar appeared our Face Book page. This was discontinued and will be replaced by a calendar on our new website.

Eric Trahan visited our trustee training to advise us

May

Created a budget to account for Advocacy grant funds

New curtains were purchased and installed with remains of Dream and Do Grant for furniture.

\$500 MVLS award for SRP materials and programs received

New Graphic novels ordered with parson's funding to develop collection

June

Began spending advocacy grant monies on new library cards, carry bags, stickers, wrapped butter mints with logo.

With grant funding, we sponsored a seedling give away - 100 seed packs handed out

July

Ordered 20 LT books to develop collection

Received \$2000 from NE Wellness and Fitness for three-part program: Come Learn with Us, Come Grow with us, Come Walk with Us

SRP began on Thursdays and Saturdays

Acquired a new public computer with Wal Mart funding

Developed a plan to expand the children's area to meet demand

August

We began providing weekly deliveries of fresh produce to our food pantry area.

Weeded 132 books from the LT collection. None of them had circulated since 2017 or earlier.

Re: shelf space for children's books. Rob Keller said he will do it (not right away), and he will get us an estimate. (\$1375)

September

I reviewed a webinar on NYS Construction grants. It doesn't look like it will work for us because we would have to apply in 2023 for work starting after July.

We have provided \$40 worth of produce each week (9/6, 9/12 and 9/19) this second month of the program. Since the produce continues to be taken, we could extend beyond the ten weeks unless we can think of another more appropriate use for the remaining funds.

Baker and Taylor was cyber hacked and couldn't process book orders for 2 weeks.

The \$352 spent out of Collection development in July turned out to be only \$160.98. We had a long-standing credit with the company. I have credited \$191 back to the Collection Development total below.

Balance in Collection Development as of October 2022 is \$9562.