

THE SHERMAN LIBRARY

ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

Minutes of the October 7, 2022 Annual Meeting of Members

ATTENDEES: Andrew Alexander (Member), Ashleigh Blake (Member), Joel Bruzinski (Member), Jamie Cantoni (Executive Director), Steven Cohen (Member), Henry Cooperman (Trustee - Treasurer), Amanda Croasmun (Trustee), Karen Cushnie (Member), Josh DeWind (Member), John Ehrenreich (Trustee), Irit Granger (Trustee), Barbara Ireland (Trustee), Roger Ireland (Member), Laura Jagodzinski (Trustee - Secretary), Joanna Johnson (Trustee Nominee), Rich Lenihan (Member), Millie Loeb (Member), Jeff Matusow (Trustee), John O'Donnell (Member), Masumi O'Donnell (Member), Milary Olson (Member) Katy Osborn, Dee Ratterree (Trustee), Christy Seewagen (Trustee Nominee), PD Villarreal (Trustee Nominee)

Meeting Support: Julia Conant (Marketing, Programming, and Community Engagement Coordinator)

Board of Trustees Absent: Ellen Archer, Mariya Hurwitz (President), Lauren Kenney (Vice President)

REVIEW OF THIS MEETING MINUTES: Dee Ratterree and John Ehrenreich

CALL TO ORDER: Laura Jagodzinski Secretary of the Board of Trustees presided over the meeting in the absence of Mariya Hurwitz, President of the Board of Trustees. Laura called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM and explained meeting protocols.

MINUTES FROM 2020 AND 2021 ANNUAL MEMBER MEETINGS: Laura Jagodzinski moved, if there was no objection, to waive the review and reading of the minutes of the 2020 and 2021 annual member meetings and accept the minutes of the 2020 and 2021 annual member meetings through unanimous consent. There was no objection, and the motion was adopted.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Henry Cooperman, Treasurer, gave highlights the fiscal report that was provided in advance of the meeting:

- Revenues are higher (\$23,000) largely due to the sharp increase in fundraising. Increased emphasis on fundraising and maintaining membership income is a goal of the Board.
- State ARPA grant (\$15,987) funded improved/expanded technology and created a more flexible/available environment
- Investment account dividend income is approximately 10% of Library revenues
- The deficit of \$39,124 is largely due to a one-time increase in operating expenses from much needed work on HVAC system and exterior painting as well as personnel costs related to the Executive Director transition and health insurance cost

Henry expressed gratitude to the Town of Sherman and the taxpayers for their essential and continued support through an annual grant. He responded to a question regarding the ARPA grant, explaining it was a one-time state grant.

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE REPORT: Henry Cooperman, Committee Chair, presented an update on the Vanguard investment account. Henry thanked the other members of the Investment Committee including Jeff Matusow, incoming Chairperson, Richard Lenihan, past board member, Steve Roffwarg and Jill Finch, as well as Jamie Cantoni and Mariya Hurwitz who attend the meetings. Henry noted:

- The portfolio is approximately 70% equities and 30% fixed income and cash equivalents

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- The fiscal year began with a balance of \$1,092,927 and ended with balance of \$1,051,561, which is essentially flat considering \$40,000 (of which \$35,000 was dividend income) was withdrawn to support the operating account.
- Under the financial circumstances, with the S&P index down 12.4%, the Committee is satisfied with the results.

Henry asked for questions, there were none.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT: In the absence of the President, Laura Jagodzinski read the President’s Report. In the report, Mariya expressed satisfaction that the Member’s meeting was held in person after 2 years of remote meetings. She noted that we asked for money throughout the year to accomplish important goals and the community responded generously through memberships, donations, grants, tax dollars that fund the town grant, and attendance and support of fundraisers including the Golden Ticket Raffle and the much anticipated “back to in-person” events – the Golf tournament, Women’s Soiree, and Book, Pop-up and Custom Blend coffee sales. Mariya described several examples of how funding is used to improve facilities, keep the Library exciting, and help meet community demands including:

- Creating a staff role to support programming, social media and communications
- Enhancing the art gallery area lighting
- Installing new donor management software to replace an outdated system and expand on-line capabilities
- Using ARPA grant investments inside and outside the building including new charging stations, outdoor flexible benches that convert to tables, a wireless network upgrade, rolling bookshelves and stackable chairs for the children’s section, providing patron laptop computers, and contactless printing/scanning.
- Creating a community survey that was launched in July

Barb Ireland delivered Mariya’s remarks recognizing Henry Cooperman, Lauren Kenney, and Laura Jagodzinski for their contributions as they retire from the Board after serving for 6 years.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT: Jamie welcomed all and expressed pleasure in meeting in person and getting to know our patrons since joining in November. She noted that the year presented challenges as we continued to work our way through COVID. Jamie recognized the “truly tremendous” staff for providing excellent service; Karen Borneman, who is a rock and a font of institutional knowledge, Charlotte Svetkey, who in a single year has transformed Children’s Services, Julia Conant, who has been a quick learner since joining in July, and the great help of the pages. Jamie provided several metrics from the annual report that was available in advance of the meeting:

- Borrowed: 23,942 items from Sherman and Interlibrary loans
- Added: 1,343 new books, audiobooks, and DVDs, including the expansion and diversification of the children’s collection
- Hosted: 316 free Library programs attended by 3,728 adults and children. Children’s programs were doubled from last year, adding new and exciting offerings.

Jamie recognized volunteers whose generosity makes many programs possible and contributes to the Library’s success. Jamie honored Katy Osborn as Volunteer of the Year, who, as a new Library volunteer, co-chaired the successful Book Sale from preparation through execution and break down. Jamie also thanked the talented artists, engaging speakers, and all those who gave their time and expertise in our re-entry into in-person fundraising. She expressed immense gratitude for the essential financial support of the community through memberships, fundraisers, sponsorships, gifts and grants, and the Town Grant. She thanked the Ada Howe Kent Foundation, the Kettering Foundation, the Town Selectmen, and the

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Sherman voters. Jamie relayed that she and the Board work hard to build a budget in line with the community needs and desires and take the task of keeping costs down seriously. She thanked the Board of Trustees for their dedication, leadership, time, and commitment for continually advocating for and protecting the Library so that it thrives for future generations.

In closing, Jamie expressed gratitude to the people of Sherman for their participation and support of the Library.

VOTING FOR TRUSTEES: Laura Jagodzinski reviewed the voting protocols and then proceeded with the agenda. Laura motioned to approve the slate of Trustees: Ellen Archer, Amanda Croasmun, Joanna Johnson, Christy Seewagen and PD Villarreal for their first two-year term and for a second two-year term, John Ehrenreich, Irit Granger, Barbara Ireland, and Dee Ratterree. John O'Donnell seconded the motion. Laura opened the floor for discussion, there were no comments or questions. Laura then called for the vote by a raise of cards. Mandy Croasmun and Barbara Ireland recorded and tabulated the votes and provided the results to Laura. Laura stated that the motion to elect Trustees requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the members voting in person or by proxy. The motion passed unanimously, with 12 votes in person and 19 votes by proxy. Laura congratulated and welcomed the new Trustees to the Board.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS: Laura Jagodzinski asked if there was any new or unfinished business. John O'Donnell, on the behalf of Linda Hubbard, the Library Art Curator who was not able to attend, recognized the staff and Trustees for their support and contributions in providing the art exhibits.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Laura Jagodzinski thanked everyone for attending and motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 PM, and Henry Cooperman seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Jagodzinski
Board of Trustees, Secretary