

NCFL– Board Meeting Minutes for June 11, 2025

Board Members Present:

Betsy Winters-Russell, Mark Reamer, Bob Weiss, Judy Albert, Kim Grethen, Catherine Forbes, Rick Werwaiss, Linda Murawski, and Dale Saylor

Also present: Shea Wert, Dottie Cummings

- Meeting called to order by Kim at 7:02 pm.
- Betsy moved to approve the May 2025 minutes. Linda seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Library Director Report

Ongoing programs:

- Baby and Toddler Story time – Weekly, average number of attendees – three kids, three adults – Wednesdays at 2pm at Trolley Station
- Knitting with Sandy – Weekly, average number of attendees - four to six
- Memoir - Monthly, average number of attendees – five (At Trolley Station)
- Neighbors of Northern Columbia County - Exercise for Seniors @ Trolley Station every Monday 10am (Karen McGraw point person)
- Quiet Car – Trolley Station – Wednesdays 10-1pm

Past programs:

- Movie Documentary Screening - We're all Plastic People Now - May 20th, at the Trolley Station 6:30 pm. Around 15 people, well received
- Friendly Banjo with Zack - Kids Program - Music and Songs - May 31st, 1pm @ Trolley Station – 4 attendees (2 kids, ,2 adults)

Upcoming Programs:

- Columbia Economic Development Corporation - Small Business Loans & Grants (Don't have a title yet) - June 11th, 5-6pm Trolley Station.
- Mid Hudson Road Trip Launch – Visit all libraries to earn prizes (starts June 6th)

News

- Shea Vacation (revised to June 23-27)

Policy Review

- Meeting Space Public Use – Rick made a motion to adopt the policy as presented. Betsy seconded. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Judy that NCFL enter into an agreement with the NCHS regarding the ongoing use by NCHS of the Trolley Station as its home and further authorizes the NCFL board President to take all steps necessary to implement this resolution. Rick seconded. All in favor, motion passed.
- Internet and Equipment – Revision was requested to add a note of “first (50) black and white pages free of charge” as a clarification. Kim made a motion to adopt the

internet policy with this revision as presented to the board. Julie seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Shea received an email from Rebekah about holding online advocacy briefings. Shea to distribute email to the board.

Finance Committee

- Budget review.
- Discussion with Board of proceeding with a 414 campaign this year. Much discussion on the amount to ask for and the work required to properly market the 414. Judy reported that the prep work, in addition to the “get out the vote” movement, were the biggest tasks from the previous 414 initiative. Julie offered to co-lead the new effort along with Judy. Rick and Betsy offered to join the committee. Agreed that 10k is the right amount to ask for based on rising costs of living. Sense of the board to proceed with the 414 this fall.
- Bob reported that we will be getting our share of funding from MHLS as expected this year.

Fundraising Events

- A meeting was held on June 2 to discuss upcoming events:
 - Cocktails at the Station - August 23
 - Traveling Dinner - Move event date to October 25.
- As board members, please put these dates on your calendars as we will ask for volunteer help from all.
- This committee is looking to expand the number of members.
- A list of possible members was created. Suggestions from the board welcome.
- Preliminary discussion of next appeal letter included timing and content

Dottie showed the group the quilt for the raffle. Envelopes with tickets to sell were passed out to the board.

Marketing Committee

Nothing to report

Building & Grounds Committee

- Joe Behn has completed the very large flower pots at the Library and TS and they look fabulous.

- The TS heat pump will be switched over to provide cooling probably this week. Please check in with me at our meeting if you would like any tutoring on the use of or Thermostat settings for same.
- Rick brought up parking at the Trolley Station and requested we add signage or cones in front of Mark's fruit trees for event parking. Mark will investigate adding.

Trolley Station Committee

- Review of proposed window shades and area rugs for space. Dale presented insulated room darkening shades and an area rug option for the space. Once approved, both can be completed within 6-8 weeks. Kim made a motion to approve costs up to 16k for blinds and Judy seconded. Kim also made a motion to approve costs up to 1.5k for three rugs and Judy seconded. All in favor, motions passed.

Arts & Culture Committee

- David Felton's program, *Flashback of a Flower Senior*, was a great success. The library was packed, and his program was fascinating, also filled with laughter. The grants manager from CREATE Council on the Arts attended and was delighted. He sent an appreciative email afterwards. Almost half the audience handed back their evaluations. Summer storytelling event will not work out at this time.
- Next committee meeting June 13.
- Julie informed the board there is an arts and culture grant ceremony on 6/25 at the Claverack library at 5:30. She will send a calendar invite to the board.

Live and Learn Committee

I. UPCOMING CONFIRMED PROGRAMS

- a. December 10, (Wednesday) 10:00 am: Holiday Centerpiece; Leona is chair - this is a new date.

II. SUGGESTED FUTURE PROGRAMMING

- a. Natural Lawn presentation
 - Frieda to follow up; possible date in early September
- b. Staying in your home for the end of life; health and aging issues/challenges
 - Roy to follow up with Diane from EverCare who has offered to speak; Possible dates: September 24/27 or October 1
- c. Joe Behn Plant presentation
 - Vicki to follow up; Possible date in early October
- d. Fire Safety in the home/fire extinguishers/equipment presentation

- Catherine is working with Mark Greenberg to determine an October date for North Chatham Fire house presentation/ appreciation date.
- e. Scams
 - Who is following up?; Possible date: November 12
- f. Economics 101 for Seniors
 - Vicki to follow up; Possible January date.
- g. Repeat Tech talks for Android/Iphones
 - Catherine to follow up with instructors; Possible January/February dates
- h. Self defense for Seniors
 - Gerry to follow up with State Police or Office of the Aging; Possible date?
- i. My Chart presentation
 - February/ March presentation; Freida to follow up with medical professionals
- j. Home renovations with aging/ergonomics in mind
 - Karen to follow up; Possible late Spring 2026 date

III. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Focus on publicity – plan to help Ellen/Shea
 - Catherine to work with Kim/Trustees for a mailing. We should have Fall planned by June to make this effective.
- b. Next meeting date: June 17 @ 10 am

Personnel Committee

Nothing to report

Volunteer Committee

Nothing to report

Nominating & Governance

Rick would like to meet the new users on the NoChat What's App group. If people know who they are he would like an introduction if possible.

Executive Committee

Nothing to report

Strategic Planning

Nothing to report

New Business

Adjusting meeting date/time/frequency

- Kim raised the question of whether there is a different day of the week, time or frequency of meeting that would better meet the needs of board members, now that we have new members and life changes for old members. It was agreed to leave the meetings at a monthly cadence on the second Wednesday for the time being.

Judy motioned to adjourn, Kim seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Next Library Board meeting is July 9, 2025, at 7:00 pm.