

DRAFT Minutes for DFPL Board of Trustees Meeting May 20, 2026 7:30 PM

Call to order:

A regular monthly meeting of the Dobbs Ferry Library Board of Trustees was held on May 20, 2026 at the Dobbs Ferry Public Library. The meeting began at 7:30pm and was presided over by Linda Stutz as President, David Tabacoff as Vice President and Inna Livitz as Secretary.

Attendees:

- Voting members in attendance: Erika Abelon, David Agosto, Inna Livitz, Alex Peck, Linda Stutz, David Tabacoff, Frank Vizard, David Webber
- Library Staff in attendance: Erik Carlson, Director, and Donna Garofalo

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees.

Review:

1. President's Report

- The Rivertowns Chamber of Commerce Gala honoring local libraries has been rescheduled for September 24, 2026.

2. Director's Report

- The Library charter amendment has been approved, reducing Trustee terms from 5 to 3 years, thereby aligning the charter with the Library bylaws and Village code.
- The Director updated the Trustees on the Librarian II search; the Library has identified finalists and is waiting on the candidates' civil service exam scores to finalize the selection.
- The Director reported that the Friends have approved the Library's proposed budget for the next fiscal year.
- The Director clarified that no additional insurance is needed for the Library to serve alcohol at Library events because it is covered by the Village's liquor liability insurance.
- The Director was notified that the price quote for a new security camera system for the Library expires after June 2026. This expense will be covered by a NY State grant, but because the grant funds have not yet been received, the Trustees will need to authorize the transfer money from the construction fund to the operating fund in order to take advantage of the current price.
- Upcoming repair and maintenance work includes fixing the noisy air handler unit and replanting the garden after the recent heat wave.

3. Meghan Wells's candidacy for Library Trustee

- The Trustees voted to recommend Meghan Wells to the Village nominating committee for the vacant Library Trustee position.

4. Appeal of Request for reconsideration

- President Stutz presented an appeal received by the Board of the Director's denial of a request for reconsideration for the children's book series, *Ivy & Bean*, *Chicken Squad*, and *Bad Kitty*. She clarified that the role of the Board is to evaluate whether the Director's denial was in violation of the Library's material selection policy.
- The Director presented the reasons for his denial of the request, as detailed in his email correspondence with the patron. President Stutz offered Trustees the opportunity to ask questions, and informed them that the patron who had brought the appeal had been notified that it would be discussed at today's meeting.
- Upon consideration of the appeal, the Board passed the following resolution:

Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Dobbs Ferry Public Library (the Library) to deny the appeal of the Library Director's April 8, 2026 decision to deny the request for reconsideration submitted to the Library on March 27, 2026.

Whereas, an appeal to an April 8, 2026, denial of a request for reconsideration was received by the Board on April 22, 2026; and

Whereas, the Board has reviewed the April 8, 2026, denial and found that it properly based the denial in the Library material selection policy; and

Whereas, the denial also acknowledged the patron's concerns and stated that, going forward, the Library will endeavor to consider the patron's opinion when making recommendations to that patron;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the policy having been followed, the appeal is denied; and

Be it further resolved, that as the Library operates to meet the needs of the community, the Board commends the Director for a thoughtful and service-oriented reply; and

Be it further resolved, that the Board thanks the community member for her engagement with the Library, and the Director shall send a copy of these minutes to notify her of the Board's decision in this matter.

Resolved that this resolution should take effect immediately.

5. Librarians' Report

- Summer reading launches in June with dinosaurs as this year's theme.
- The 10th anniversary of the cult classic movie program was a success.

6. Friends of the Library Report

President Stutz and Trustee Agosto attended the annual meeting of the Friends:

- The Friends are actively working to expand membership and raise funds in addition to utilizing endowment funds to support the Library.
- The murder mystery night was a success and will be planned again for next year, along with the miniature golf fundraiser.

7. Village Liaison Report

The Village Liaison sent an update in advance of the meeting:

- The Village has engaged a consultant to address the Library's HVAC issues. President Stutz noted that Sustainable Dobbs may be able to assist in securing grant funding to offset the cost.
- The Dobbs Ferry NY Forward grant recipients have been finalized.

7. Committee Reports

Policy Committee:

- The Committee has done a draft of the disaster preparedness but it needs additional information and review from Library staff. The new Assistant Director will work on the disaster preparedness policy over the summer.
- The Committee is working on the new volunteer policy. They will meet with the Director to better understand how volunteers are used at the Library to further inform the policy.
- The Director and Trustee Livitz attended a training on the materials and collection development policy.

Finance Committee:

- Library financials are in order.
- Trustee Webber has developed a template to streamline the review of Village financial documents and the Library budget for use by the Committee.

Personnel Committee:

- The Library is waiting on civil service exam results for top candidates for the Librarian II position and waiting for the part-time Librarian I candidate to take the civil service exam.

Items for Vote

The Board passed the following resolutions:

- Resolution to authorize the transfer of \$24,500 from account CM.2401.0910 to account L.5031.0000 to be used towards the cost of a new security camera system.
- Resolution to authorize the decommission out-of-order equipment as detailed.
- Resolution to authorize the increase in library staff salaries in accordance with the budget approved by the Village

Announcements and Upcoming

- Next meeting scheduled: June 17, 2026

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting ended at 8:15pm

Secretary signature: Inna Livitz, June 11, 2026

Date of approval by the Board: