

Mario F. Pensa expressed his gratitude to Donalee Berard stating that she is the ‘foundation’ of a considerable amount of work and financial information that goes into preparing the Treasurer’s Annual Report.

President’s Report –Craig H. Long

The President’s opening statement noted that last year, for the first time in 95 years, the annual meeting was not held in the Library due to the COVID Pandemic. At the beginning of the year the Library had limited hours, curbside pickup, online programming, and remote Board meetings in order to comply with state mandates. When things were at their worst, the shutdowns of workplaces and public places, the staff was still coming in here day after day, doing their job. The custodian and maintenance staff kept the building clean and safe and when the doors finally opened, patrons were welcomed back.

The Library prevailed because of the staff’s ‘Herculean’ effort, and as a Board, was able to give them the support they needed to continue providing service to the community during difficult times.

On May 20, 2021, the Board appointed Jennifer May Smith, Head of Children's Services, to serve as the Acting Director.

Summer reading was a great success with 521 children, teens, and adults participating in the Summer Reading Program. A record number of adults (72) participated. Adult programs were offered both in person and virtually and were attended by 7,361 people.

The Board of Trustees established a Search Committee under the direction of Mark Murphy, along with Vice President Warren E. Berbit and Karen Bash Romaner to conduct the nationwide search for a Library Director. Two staff members were also invited to share their input. The Committee worked long and hard in terms of searching and reviewing resumes and conducting interviews. Grace Riario, Executive Director of RCLS assisted in the search. The search ended in November of 2021, with a unanimous choice of Darlene Alessi, to be the Library Director.

Darlene Alessi has been tasked with taking the Library in a new direction. Darlene is reviewing and taking a detailed look at the budget. She has begun updating policies, revamping the Library building with fresh paint and new furniture; she is working on getting construction grants for replacing the carpets; and she is working with the Woman’s Club and Mario F. Pensa on creating an inviting outdoor space as well.

The Board of Trustees created the position of Assistant Director, and on November 15, 2021, that position was given to Jennifer Mae Smith.

The President thanked the Board of Trustees for their dedication and commitment to the Library and support of the staff. Thank you to the staff for their hard work and dedication.

Budget Information –Donalee Berard

Donalee Berard reviewed in detail the Library’s FY 2022-2023 Budget. Based on the Budget, the Library will need to ask for an increase of 2% real property tax for 2022-2023 annual support of the Library plus use reserve funds to balance the budget.

President Craig H. Long noted that the Library had been constrained for two years, not going out for a budget vote, acknowledging some of the financial hardships the community faced during difficult times. The President mentioned that Donalee Berard was able to find out that the Library was eligible to apply for the CARES ACT, and as a result, the Library received funds.

Trustee Election:

President Craig H. Long announced that the three current Board members running for re-elections are:

- Donalee Berard
- Erb Cooper
- James J. Galvin

The President noted that legal notices of the meeting and Trustee election were published in both the *Journal News* and *Rockland County Times*. There were no petitions submitted from any other individual candidates.

Secretary Karen Bash-Romaner moved and cast one vote to accept and declare the above candidates for 3-year terms of office.

Public Comment: Joyce A. Nencetti, Trustee Emeritus

Joyce A. Nencetti announced that the book sale volunteers and herself, are pleased with the way the public is excited now that the books are for sale in the downstairs lobby. Joyce noted she met with Darlene Alessi and the volunteers to discuss the possibility of a spring book sale. Book donations are now being accepted at the back entrance of the Library.

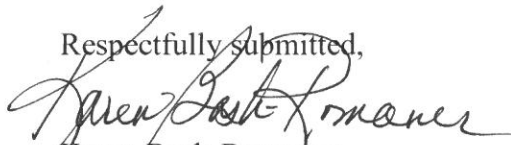
Joyce Nencetti thanked Darlene Alessi for her patience, good ideas, and suggestions.

President Craig H. Long remarked that on behalf of the Board of Trustees, thank you to Joyce Nencetti and the book sale volunteers for their hard work.

MOTION

A motion was made by Mark Murphy, seconded by James J. Galvin, and carried to adjourn the Annual Association meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Bash-Romaner
Secretary