

***CORRESPONDENCE RECOGNIZING STAFF
FOR MHLS BOARD MEETING OF JANUARY 27, 2018***

CORRESPONDENCE

- Thank you email to Merribeth Advocate, Assistant Director, from Lynne "Asha" Golliher, Director Hurley Library, for the excellent orientation she provided on OverDrive Marketplace.
- Thank you email to Merribeth Advocate, Assistant Director, from Wendy Tremper Wollerton, Director of the Livingston Free Library, for the overview of the OverDrive software she provided and her offer of one-on-one assistance, if needed.
- Thank you email to Merribeth Advocate, Assistant Director, from Amy K. Smith, on behalf of the Red Hook Public Library, for the Outreach Grant they received in support of their "All Abilities" program.
- Thank you letter to Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, MHLS Coordinator for Library Sustainability from the Board of the Clinton Community Library for her three years of "intensive and invaluable assistance" culminating in their successful 414 vote in November 2017.
- Thank you note to Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, MHLS Coordinator for Library Sustainability from Jen McCreery, Director of the Desmond-Fish Library, for her facilitation and consultation with their board's long-range planning committee.
- Thank you note to Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, MHLS Coordinator for Library Sustainability from Julie Delisle, chair of the Columbia County Library Association (CCLA) & director of the Chatham Public Library, for her participation at the CCLA dinner.
- Thank you note to Tom Sloan, Executive Director & Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Coordinator for Library Sustainability from Jane Minotti, Library Development Specialist with the New York State Library Division of Library Development for their hospitality during her site visit to MHLS.
- Thank you note to Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, MHLS Coordinator for Library Sustainability from Elizabeth Potter, director of the Phoenicia Library, for her assistance over the course of the year.
- Thank you email to Laurie Shedrick, Technology Operations Manager, from Wendy Tremper Wollerton, Director Livingston Free Library, for the outstanding support provided by the MHLS Technology team.

Merribeth Advocate, MHLS

From: Hurley Library. <hurleydirector@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 22, 2017 9:29 AM
To: Merribeth Advocate
Subject: Overdrive Marketplace

Flag Status: Flagged

Hi, Merribeth,

Thank you so much for your clarity and patience yesterday - I feel like I have a really good overview, and know how to proceed. (We'll see what my retention is like come February, lol). Your tour and coaching left me w/both the specifics I need and also the "philosophy" of how to prioritize. Thanks again!

All blessings of the holiday to you and yours - we have so much to be grateful for, including great libraries and teamwork and encouragement!

Best regards,
Asha

--

Lynne "Asha" Golliher, Director
Hurley Library
48 Main Street, Hurley, NY 12443
(845)338-2092

"The very existence of libraries affords the best evidence that we may yet have hope for the future of man" T.S. Eliot

Merribeth Advocate, MHLS

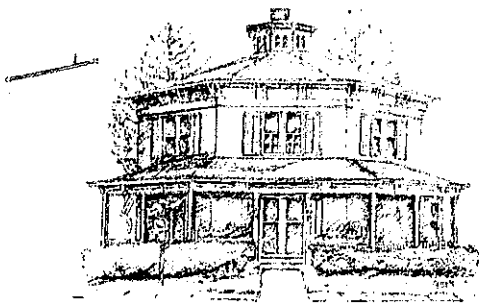
From: library livingston <livingstonlibrary105@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 29, 2017 4:49 PM
To: Merribeth Advocate, MHLS
Subject: Thanks !

Flag Status: Flagged

Merribeth,

Many thanks for you time today with the in service for *Overdrive*. I do have an *Advantage* account, but currently we do not have money to buy e-books. I am hoping that will change in 2018. I do think it is important to become as familiar with the *Overdrive* software as possible. I am glad that Toby asked about the expiring e-books being deleted from patron's accounts. I think going to the classes are just as beneficial to hear questions from other participants. Your offer to be available for one-on-one sessions by phone was a definite plus. It is one thing to view information in class, then when one starts to apply it at the office, you may make a "wrong turn".

Wendy



RED HOOK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Board of Trustees

Maryelisa Blundell
Sally Dwyer-McNulty
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Director: Dawn Jardine

November 3, 2017

Merribeth Advocate, Assistant Director
Mid-Hudson Library System
103 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Dear Merribeth,

We write you with heartfelt gratitude for your support of our "All Abilities" program. The recent System Grant of \$2,000 made it possible to buy equipment to make online learning and fun more accessible to patrons with special needs.

Since receiving the grant we have expanded our adult "All Abilities" program to twice a month and started "All Abilities Kids" with a storytime designed for children with special needs. Plans are in the works for "All Abilities Music and Movement" program too!

Though we suspected there was a lack of programming for patrons with special needs, we are continually surprised at how large a gap there is. Participants in "All Abilities" come from other towns and counties as far as 45 minutes away. We are keen to continue developing relationships with community groups and families, and hope to share what we have learned with other area libraries in the near future.

Thank you again,

Amy K. Smith



CLINTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY

1215 Centre Road
Rhinebeck NY 12572
845.266.5530 | clintonlib1215@gmail.com

December 4, 2017

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Ms. Rebekkah Smith Aldrich
Coordinator for Library Sustainability
Mid-Hudson Library System
103 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Dear Rebekkah,

We are writing to express our heartfelt appreciation for your three years of intensive and invaluable assistance. You have been our colleague, our partner and our friend, guiding us and providing positive encouragement even when the going was rough, and that was often! The happy result is the approval of our 414 budget proposition on Clinton's November 2017 ballot.

As you well know, in the Summer of 2014 our community was sharply divided over the Library Board's decision to terminate a popular library director. This was combined with public frustration over the failure of two previous attempts to acquire sustainable funding for the library through the 414 process. Tempers flared and harsh words were exchanged on all sides during public Library Board meetings. Eventually the entire Board of Trustees attempted to resign as a group but this was prohibited by the NYS Department of Library Development. MHLS Executive Director Tom Sloan intervened and established a public and transparent process through which the existing Board could resign while a new Board was seated to take its place.

The newly formed CCL Board of Trustees (That's us!) began work on two primary goals: to promote healing in the community and to obtain sustainable funding through the 414 public budget vote process. Recognizing that we were inexperienced and unfamiliar with Board responsibilities, you have been with us every step of the way, attending each of our monthly Board meetings and always making time between meetings to quickly respond to our questions and concerns.

We are grateful to you also for facilitating the Board retreat where we made the commitment to a 414 campaign, for attending our ongoing 414 planning meetings, guiding us in campaign strategy, and for supporting us at meetings with our Town Board as we made our case for the importance of library service to our community. In all of these you have offered wise counsel while exhibiting professionalism, reliability, and absolute grace under pressure. Your considerable and outstanding efforts have far surpassed what we should have reasonably expected.

Three years later as we head into 2018 the Clinton Community Library has acquired sustainable funding and our community has come together to support the Library. We want to express our deep gratitude to you, Rebekkah, and to the Mid-Hudson Library System for all you have done for our library and our community.

Sincerely,

Clinton Community Library Board of Trustees

cc: Mr. Tom Sloan, Executive Director, Mid-Hudson Library System ✓
Ms. Camilla von Bergen, President, MHLS Board of Trustees

Zimbra

rsmith@midhudson.org

Re: Moving towards sustainability and smart growth at the DFL

From : Jen McCreery
<desmondfishdirector@gmail.com>

Thu, Dec 14, 2017 12:51 PM

Subject : Re: Moving towards sustainability and smart growth at the DFL

To : Rebekkah Smith Aldrich
<rsmith@midhudson.org>

Thanks so much Rebekkah! I really appreciate you making the trip to speak with us and moving the conversation forward. You helped identify a number of starting points for us to work on and from which we can map out our work in the next few years.

I am in meetings for most of the day but will try to settle down and work on my notes this evening while they're fresh in my mind!

Jen

--

Jen McCreery
Library Director
Desmond-Fish Library
www.desmondfishlibrary.org
845-424-3020

On Thu, Dec 14, 2017 at 9:42 AM, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich
<rsmith@midhudson.org> wrote:

Hi Jen,

I'll work on my notes from last night as soon as I can but I wanted to go ahead and send you the policy development spreadsheet I mentioned to you last night:
MHLS Essential Documents Inventory Workbook
Rebekkah

From: "rsmith" <rsmith@midhudson.org>
To: "desmondfishdirector" <desmondfishdirector@gmail.com>
Cc: "Stacy Morrison" <slm1711@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 7, 2017 4:55:04 PM

12/10/11

Dear Rebekkah,

Thank you for speaking
at the Columbia County Library
Association Dinner last week. I
am so grateful that one of the shining
lights of our profession works for our
system. (You!)

XXOO, Julie

12 / 17

Dear RebeKkah,

Thank you for your
Support in 2017 — to our
library and to me as
director.

It's always the most
amazing thing to know you
always have someone smart,
informed and crazy passionate
in your corner.

xo Liz P.

Zimbra

rsmith@midhudson.org

Visit to MHLS

From : Jane Minotti <Jane.Minotti@nysed.gov>

Thu, Nov 30, 2017 09:19 AM

Subject : Visit to MHLS

📎 1 attachment

To : Rebekkah Smith Aldrich
<rsmith@midhudson.org>, Tom Sloan
<tsloan@midhudson.org>

Good morning, Rebekkah and Tom,

I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to MHLS offices yesterday. Thank you again for welcoming me and fitting me in your busy schedules. Thanks also for the lunch at the Palace Diner, Rebekkah!

I am so impressed with your strategic planning process, Plan of Service, sustainability initiative, and all the services you provide to your members. I look forward to working with you in the future and please feel free to contact me if I can help you with anything.

Best,

Jane

Jane Minotti
Library Development Specialist I
New York State Library Division of Library Development
Room 10B41, CEC
222 Madison Avenue
Albany, NY 12230
Phone: 518-486-4858
jane.minotti@nysed.gov





From: library livingston [mailto:livingstonlibrary105@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, December 29, 2017 6:48 PM
To: Laurie Shedrick <lshedrick@midhudson.org>
Subject: 2 items @ Livingston Free Library

Laurie,

First of all I want to tell you how terrific the Tech Support Team is at MHLS. They are always so helpful, informative and very prompt. I feel that we are very fortunate to have them as a resource. A great team!

Aerohive

The Livingston Free Library Board met December 27, 2017. Their decision is to go ahead and have **Aerohive** installed in 2018, but since we are so small, to be the last library to have this installed.

Survey

I have written a survey that I would like to have a link for it posted on our website. When I had inquired with Rebekkah about this, she mentioned that most libraries use *SurveyMonkey.com* or *Google Forms*. I would also like to have the online survey in a format that I can send out to my email list with the Winter Newsletter. I have never done this before. can you or your staff help me with this?

Many thanks
Wendy