

Below are selected highlights from three recent Board meetings attended by Columbia County delegates.

**CLAVERACK FREE LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
Thursday, March 16, 2023 | 6:00 p.m.**

MHLS Delegates Attending: Jill Leinung, Janet Schnitzer, Mark Wilson

- The Board voted its approval of the Annual Report prepared by Director Thea Schoep.
- Winter programming at the Library has been robust, with a wide range of attendance numbers (from 2 to 65).
- There are two open seats on the Board, with a third seat to open in July. Current members will approach people they know to generate interest in Board service. Calls for nominations to leadership positions were issued in preparation for June's Annual Meeting.
- The Library is seeking a person to take care of general / regular maintenance of the facility. The search has been unsuccessful to date. MHLS delegates suggested a company based in Schodack and used by the Kinderhook Library.
- The Board met in Executive Session to review the lease on the former Library building, now used as a Town Hall and by the Town Court.

**KINDERHOOK MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
Tuesday, March 21, 2023 | 7:00 p.m.**

MHLS Delegate Attending: Mark Wilson

- Earlier this year, the Board approved adding term limits to its by-laws regarding members' service. As a result, four long-time members rotated off the Board, with a fifth person stepping down one year early due to other commitments. All five seats were filled following a community-wide notice and campaign for volunteers that ensured parity representation from both Kinderhook and Stuyvesant.
- The Sustainability Committee continues to complete tasks in its goal to achieve SLI certification by the end of the calendar year.

- The Fundraising Committee is planning a Studio Art Tour at the end of April. Ticketholders can visit artists' studios in Kinderhook, Valatie and Stuyvesant, get to know the artists and purchase their works, with 20% of each sale donated to the Library.
- The Library will launch a Chapter 414 referendum this year, with specific needs determined at a subsequent Board meeting.

**PHILMONT PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
Wednesday, May 3, 2023 | 6:00 p.m.**

MHLS Delegates Attending: Janet Schnitzer, Mark Wilson

- The Board plans to increase the number range of members able to serve, requiring a revision to the Library's current charter.
- A feasibility study is underway to determine the best potential use of current building space, or if a rebuilding / new building is needed. This is a long-term project – one that has been in discussion over the last few years and is now being executed.
- With the Friends Group disbanded, the Board established an Advisory Council to be comprised of volunteers interested in working on specific projects, with a longer-term goal of bringing interested Council members onto the Board. The Council has no governance structure; it is a resource pool for volunteers to share their time and talents as needed.
- Six Board members attended the meeting. One new Trustee was welcomed to the meeting and the notice of one departing Trustee mentioned. A call for nominations was issued for leadership positions; the current, long-serving President will step down from the post but remain on the Board. Ensuing discussion concluded with a new leadership slate comprised of current Board members.