

Board-to-Board Visit
New Lebanon Library
July 14, 2022 | 6:00 p.m.

MHLS Delegate – Mark Wilson

Four trustees attended the meeting along with Library Director Michelle Hoffman.

Topics discussed by the Director included an update on the Library's application for a state aid construction grant [NB - which they did not receive during this round of grants] and the logistics behind videoconferencing Board meetings.

The Treasurer reported receipt of the 2022 414 payment from the Town. Overall, the budget is in fairly good shape, but utility expenses (electric) have consumed nearly 75% of its line item. On the plus side, budgeted expenses for other major line items are less than 50% expended.

Per the President's report, the Library is working with NYSERDA to arrange an energy audit in pursuit of converting to a geothermal heating system that will reduce the Library's greenhouse gas output. A list of additional action items were reviewed, including LED upgrades, weather stripping, installing a wi-fi programmable thermostat and insulated window shades. Also discussed was a feasibility study by the Town to create a sewer district, which would include the Library.

The Board was very welcoming and open during its discussions. It is a productive and forward-thinking group that has worked hard to set achievable goals and remains committed in its service to the community.

Board-to-Board Visit
Roeliff Jansen Community Library
October 18, 2022 | 6:00 p.m.

MHLS Delegates – Jill Leinung, Janet Schnitzer, Mark Wilson

Board members introduced themselves to the delegates. Fourteen were in attendance, representing a number of working groups / standing committees including Finance, HR, Nominating, Annual Gala, Development, 414, Outreach and Benefits.

One of the greater pieces of good news in the finance area was the anticipated payoff of the Library's mortgage in 2024. Roe Jan also received 130 donations totaling over \$12,000 during its campaign to raise awareness of National Library Week in April. The Library will launch its Annual Appeal in early November.

The Friends bookstore raises between \$100 and \$200 each week. They are also resuming in-person meeting and programs.

Another well-orchestrated campaign from the Development Committee is its Business Partners program. The Committee sent over 80 letters, drafted according to categories of past, prospective and current sponsors, to businesses in the Library's service area. The categories were color coded on large post it notes pasted on the wall. Trustees were required to take six businesses and do a follow up through on-site visits (preferred) or via phone. The Business Partners campaign usually raises \$13,000 to \$15,000, though last year's intake was \$9,000.

The Director's report provided a review the Library's Code of Ethics, Strategic Planning update, and developments on replacing the accordion door between the Community Room and the Children's Library.

PS – We knew about Director Tammy Gaskell's upcoming NYLA award, but did not know if she knew . . . so we kept quiet, though we very much wanted to congratulate her!