President Barry Ramage called the meeting to order at 10:05AM.

1. **ROLL CALL AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
   Trustees Present: Stuart Auchincloss, Heather Blakely, Debra Klein, Jill Leinung, Barry Ramage, Janet Schnitzer, Richard Swierat, Carla Taylor, Mary Linda Todd, Mark Wilson, Kenneth Goldberg
   Trustees Absent (excused): Rajene Hardeman, George Joiner
   Trustees Absent (unexcused): Peter Carey
   Directors Association Liaison: Matthew Pavloff, Director, Kinderhook Memorial Library
   Staff Present: Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, James Coyle, Laura Crisci, Elizabeth Garcia, Laurie Shedrick, Ashley Teal, Stephanie Werskey

2. **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**
   President Ramage introduced new staff, Stephanie Werskey and Elizabeth Garcia. President Ramage welcomed newest board member Thomas Silvious, from Green County.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
   • Approval of September Minutes: Ken Moved, Ric Seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
   • Approval of Annual Membership Meeting Minutes: moved, seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **TREASURER’S REPORT**
   • Treasurer Richard Swierat discussed current financial status, and the current underspending of this year and upcoming expenditures. Rather than 2 contributions to the libraries, one will be made in November. The roof and solar panels will have payments required in November and December. The system is currently at full staff, less one part time employee. Close to budget in 2023. Ric motioned to approve, Stuart seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

5. **REPORT ON PAYMENT OF BILLS**
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- A report from . The motion passed. Warrants for September and October, Ric motioned, Debra seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

6. DIRECTOR’S REPORT

- Executive Director, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, discussed outreach to Governor Hochul using the New York Library Association’s Call to Action Campaign.

- Personnel Updates: Barry called for a motioned to approve, Ric motioned, Carla seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- Update on Unionvale library development, including NYS charter, design and catalog. Town supervisor has been replaced, and newly elected supervisor does not support the new library being built, but instead is advocating to return to initial contract to pay towards use of four surrounding libraries and participation in the MHLS. Current restrictions for Unionvale residents are library of things, video games, etc, yet based on NYS regulations residents are permitted to check out books, use library services, and digital services such as Libby.

7. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Memo of Understanding, Stuart motioned, Janet seconded, motioned passed unanimously.
- Path to Membership Joint Committee Meeting Notes, Barry motioned to continue on the process, seconded by Richard Swierat. Motion passed unanimously.
- Executive Session to discuss

8. DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION LIAISON REPORT

- Matthew Pavloff, Director of Kinderhook Library
- Use of libraries by temporary residents, training of staff in Vega, NovelNY (federally funded, funding may be removed – NYLA has organized to advocate for funding, as funding will end June of 2024.

9. FACILITIES COMMITTEE
2024 Facilities Plan – Heather motioned to recommend approval of facilities plan, Janet seconded, motion passed unanimously.

10. PERSONNEL & PLANNING COMMITTEE

- Mark moves to approve personnel salary increases for facilities manager, Ric seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mark moves to approve personnel salary increases and scope of responsibility. Barry seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mark motions to approve 2024 action plan, Carla seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Contact for staff is up for negotiation in 2024.

11. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- Budget for 2024 based on revenue of 2023 as a safeguard for currently unknown state funding. Delivery service contract will be up for evaluation.
- Salary Schedule: Ric motioned, Jill seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- 2024 Proposed Budget: Ric motioned, Carla seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Stuart questioned outreach to better understand use of funds. Such funds are state allocated for individuals with disabilities, those who are incarcerated, and those in rural areas. Stuart requested the accommodation of footnotes in regard to acronyms.

12. WORKING GROUP REPORTS

- Debra Klein welcomed Heather to the EDI working group, noting a recommendation to “inaudible remark”
- Debra motioned to approve the Book Haven System. Stuart Seconded. Kenneth asked for clarification: print vs. digital. Current plan is to acquire print copies of banned books, as digital copies are not permanent. Stuart offered financial support added to Rebekkah Smith Aldrich’s dedicated personal funds to supply the collection. Motion passed unanimously.
- Government & Community Relations: Moving toward grants to help sustain projects outside the scope of state funding. State Advocacy Plan.

13. BYLAWS, POLICIES and PROCEDURES COMMITTEE
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- How are patrons able to dispute collections of books held by MHLS.

14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
- Approval of 2024 Slate of Board Officers. Ric Motioned, Mark seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

15. NEW BUSINESS
- December 2024 Meeting date from December 18, 2024, Barry motioned, Stuart Seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Board assignments for 2024 – trustees should indicate to President Ramage if there are preferences for particular boards. Hopeful to have a representative from all counties for each committee.

16. ORIENTATION

  Discussed Digital Navigator program, to train member library staff to assist patrons in applying for broadband internet connection to create digital equity, as well as helping patrons better understand digital information and navigating ___

17. COMMUNICATION

18. ADJOURNMENT

At, Barry Ramage declared the meeting adjourned. Mark Wilson Seconded.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stuart Auchincloss, Secretary

Approved on [DATE] by the MHLS Board of Trustees