

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library (SPL)
February 10, 2025
Scott Room

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library was held on February 10, 2025.

The following participants were in attendance: Jordan Copeland, President; Robert Jeremiah, Vice President; Diksha Mudbhary, Finance Officer; Scott Gerwin, Secretary; Pedro Ladislau, Trustee; Erika Rublin, Trustee; Stephanie Wechsler, Trustee; Jennifer Fischman, Trustee; Betty Pforzheimer, Trustee; Beth Bermel, Library Director; Catherine Callegari, Assistant Director; Michelle Lichtenberg, Friends of the Scarsdale Library.

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m.

1. **Approval of the minutes from January 13, 2025:** Robert moved to approve the minutes from the January 13th, 2025 meeting of the Library Board. Stephanie seconded the motion, and the motion was approved with none opposed.
2. **Report from Friends of Scarsdale Library:** Michelle Lichtenberg gave a brief update on behalf of the Friends of the Scarsdale Library, sharing that Daniella Retelny and Toby Milstein Schulman were voted in as new co-presidents of the Friends. The Friends is reviewing activity possibilities for the coming year, with a goal of having an event for each of the next three quarters, with each event raising \$75,000 to support library operations. However, a large gala event is not planned for 2025. All of the capital campaign money raised in support of the landscaping project has been gifted to the village, though Friends hope to raise some additional funding for the project.
3. **Director's Report:** Beth gave her Director's report sharing that we are in negotiations with a vendor to operate the cafe space. An agreement is expected to go to the Village Board for approval at the end of this month. The vendor expects it to take 4-6 weeks to get up and running once the contract is finalized. Beth attended Library Advocacy Day in Albany, where she met with state legislators to advocate for budgetary and policy support, based on priorities identified by the New York Library Association. The main issues discussed were budget concerns, operating aid, construction aid, and increasing funding for Novel New York, a database funded by the State. Anti-censorship legislation for public libraries and school libraries was also discussed. Beth also noted that she has shared proposed Board meeting dates for 2025 with trustees, and asked trustees to let her know of any conflicts with those dates.
4. **President's Report:** Jordan gave a President's report, noting that the budget presentation to the Village went very well, and that there were no emails to the Board email account regarding Board business. The nominating committee met today and will present a proposed slate of officers for the 2025-26 year for a Board vote at the March Board meeting. Jordan will send out an email about getting a Board table at the upcoming Scarsdale Foundation Bowl dinner.
5. **Landscape Committee Update:** Beth gave a brief update on behalf of the Landscape Committee, noting that Slade's presentation has been postponed from February 12th to March 3rd, while they await the results of a geotechnical engineering survey and additional price quotes on materials. Beth met with the landscape architect, who is in the process of submitting paperwork to various land use boards.

There were no comments from the public.

Jordan adjourned the Board meeting at 7:54.