Board of Trustees
of the Blauvelt Free Library
September 23, 2025

PRESENT: Lawrence Dan Danner (LDD), Debbie Gallagher (DG), Lisa Honig-Andrea (LHA), Kathleen Lacker (KL), Sal Pagnani (SP), Donald Syko (DS), and Michael Andrea (MA). A quorum was determined based on the presence of these trustees.

Staff Present: Claire Morrissey (CM), Library Director, Joan Ready (JR), Library Treasurer, and Alice Ryan (AR), Friends of the Library, and Maria Valentino (MV), recording secretary.

EXCUSED ABSENCE FROM MEETING ATTENDANCE: Kerry Beckmann (KB)

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by Michael Andrea, Board President

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MINUTES:

Motion to accept the minutes of the May 27, 2025 meeting, was made by DS, and seconded by KL. Motion passed unanimously by the quorum of Trustees.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

JR presented the Treasurer's report for May 2025.

Motion to accept the May 2025 Treasurer's report was made by SP and seconded by KL. Motion passed unanimously by the quorum of Trustees.

JR presented the Treasurer's report for June 2025.

Motion to accept the June 2025 Treasurer's report was made by SP and seconded by KL. Motion passed unanimously by the quorum of Trustees.

JR presented the Treasurer's report for July 2025. Board members asked questions regarding some of the line items and JR explained them in detail.

Motion to accept the July 2025 Treasurer's report was made by DG and seconded by LDD. Motion passed unanimously by the quorum of Trustees.

JR presented the Treasurer's report for August 2025. Board members asked questions regarding some of the line items and JR explained them in detail.

Motion to accept the August 2025 Treasurer's report was made by DS and seconded by KL. Motion passed unanimously by the quorum of Trustees.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY REPORT:

Report by Friends of Blauvelt Free Library delivered by AR. The Elmwood Theatre fundraiser was held last week, attended by 54 people. Joe Onativia, from St. Catherine's Church, assisted with this fundraiser. Seventeen homes have signed up for the community yard sale. AR asked if anyone was aware of who made the signs for this event in the past. AR hopes to have the community map available at least a week prior to the event. AR stressed the fact that we need to increase our own members to attend these events so that we do not have to rely on other groups to get decent attendance. KL indicated that she would assist in getting the word out on social media. CM and KL advised that the Culinary trip was wonderful. CM indicated that she would like to meet with AR soon to discuss financials for future events.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

CM reviewed monthly stats and issues to be addressed in New Business, Old Business and General Maintenance/Operational Items. Program participation is going well.

OLD BUSINESS:

Review of Proposed New and Updated Library Policies
CM indicated that she will give folders to all the Trustees with the policies to review so that they can be approved and put on the website.

Library Survey
CM reported that the survey closed on May 31st, and many suggestions have been incorporated into current programming. Friday Fun Nights started September 12th and was well attended. Friday Fun Nights are scheduled for October, November, and December. Many other Adult, Children, and Family programs are planned through December.

Lion's Club Electronic Board
CM advised that the post/bracket was not sufficient and is being updated. Installation was supposed to be on September 15th.

Thrift Shop
DG advised that they are not accepting fall items. JR advised that we have been receiving checks from the thrift shop. MA advised that it be advertised on our website and flyers.

NEW BUSINESS:

RCLS Summer Programs
CM reported that the 2025 RCLS Road Trip 2025 continues until September 30th and had over 200 visitors. Programing stats were distributed indicated there was an increase of over 70% increase in attendees from 2024. Chair Yoga has been continued due to popular demand. Mary Beth has had wonderful success with her Children and Teens programs. E-Books and actual books taken out are running the same. There was also a significant increase in patron visits this summer.

2026 Budget Proposal Presented to Town of Orangetown September 2025
CM reported that she and MA met with Jeff Bencik, Orangetown Director of Finance, over the summer. They attended the Town meeting and offered a 3% reduction in Town funding to the Blauvelt Free Library. The Town was happy with this and will provide their budget decisions in October, 2025.

RCLS 2026 Budget
CM reported that there will not be an increase for us. MA will sign and return the documentation to RCLS.

Trustee Opening/Training Compliance
CM reported that she is missing certificates from some of the Trustees and asked them to get them to her as soon as possible. She sent an email to the Trustees advising that the New City Library is doing training on October 22nd at their library. MA advised the Trustees about two future RCLS training sessions. Board discussion ensued.

GENERAL MAINTENANCE/OPERATIONAL ITEMS:

CM reported that there is a rodent problem and advised that the pest control contractor is working with us to seal up points of entry.

The report from the Cornell Cooperative-Rockland Extension suggests removing the boxwoods outside because they have blight. Our landscaper suggested we take them out and replace them with another plant in the spring.

The chairs in the circulation desk have been replaced with sturdier ones. Other furniture and chairs are in progress for updates and replacements. Board discussion ensued.

CM advised that the sprinklers were never turned on, but we have a more pressing issue with getting the electrical fixed outside. Board discussion ensued.

MISCELLANEOUS:

A motion to accept the resignation of Maria Ceci, Trustee, effective July 31, 2025, was made by SP and seconded by KL. Motion passed unanimously by a quorum of Trustees.

MA asked that CM advertise for the opening and asked that any Trustees who knows of someone who may be interested to let him know.

MA discussed a recent event at a school board meeting and asked that our Trustees and employees do not have mention being a part of the library on social media and be mindful of what they post. Board discussion ensued.

ADJOURN MEETING:

A motion for adjournment of the Public meeting was made at 8:00 PM by KL and seconded by LDD. Motion passed unanimously by a quorum of Trustees.

Next meeting is scheduled Tuesday, October 28, 2025, at 7:00 PM.