

Daniel Pierce Library  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
January 15, 2025

A meeting of the Trustees of the Daniel Pierce Library was called to order at 7:10 pm with President Mari Martin presiding. Other Trustees present were Cathy Coombe, Pat Doogan, Bill Richardson, Bob Eddings, Leanore Egan, and Kate Kelly. Also present was Cathy Russo, Interim Operations Manager.

**Public Comments:**

**Secretary's Report:** The minutes of the December 18 meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.

**Correspondence:** Leanore Egan read thank you notes from Mikki Greene, Rhea DeMaria, Cathy and Chris Russo, Nicole Richardson, Deirdre McHugh, Pat Cummins and Michelle Gorman.

**Financial Reports:** C Russo presented the financial statements for December and for the full year. The Balance sheet figures were similar to balances of the previous month with the exception of a few items that she noted. The operating account was higher than usual. An educational grant was awarded from Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union in 2024. DPL is eligible to apply for another grant in February 2025. The first PILOT Payment was received already. Library operating expenses were within normal ranges and some were less than usual. She reported that fundraising income for the year was higher than anticipated. It was moved by C Coombe and seconded by L Eagan to accept the financial statements for November. Motion carried.

**Director's Report:** C Russo presented the Director's Report for December into January. She highlighted the programs and activities that took place, and that are scheduled for January and February. The full report is attached.

**Old Business:** Solar Update. The size of the solar project is to be reduced to 4000 square feet due to Town zoning rules. 3<sup>rd</sup> Rock Solar will recalculate the cost and electricity generation estimates based on the revised size.

DPL By-Laws state that proposed by-law changes must be submitted to the board two meetings in a row for review. This being the first reading of the proposed by-law change, the board discussed the proposed changes.

By-Laws Review: Article 111, Section 2: motion to amend Article III section 2 to the following: The Director shall be responsible for recommending appointment, assignment, transfer, promotion and dismissal of all staff members to the Board of Trustees. All Staff changes shall be reported to the Board when occurring outside of a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees.

The second proposed by-law change is to Article II: Duties of Officers. The proposal is to change the name of Article II to: Duties of Officers and Board As A Whole.

The third proposed change is to add a new Section 7: “The Board, as a whole, at the recommendation of the Director, shall be responsible for appointment, assignment, transfer, promotion and dismissal of all staff members by simple majority at any regularly scheduled meeting or duly called special meeting of the Board.

The fourth proposed by-law change is to Article IV, Amendments: Section 1. To eliminate the requirement to mail the proposed change to each Board member, by certified mail- return receipt requested, at least 10 days prior to the meeting at which the vote is to be taken, and replace with: “ a copy of the proposed change shall have been sent to each Board member in a Board Packet, or emailed, at least 10 days prior to the meeting at which the vote is to be taken.”

**New Business:**

Kate Kelly announced that she will be attending the NYS Library Advocacy day in the Legislature in Albany February 5. She proposed that a letter from the DPL Board of Trustees be drafted for reading at the session.

1. C Russo presented the Tax Cap Resolution language to be adopted by the Board of Trustees for the 2026 budget:

Whereas, the adoption of this 2026 budget for the Daniel Pierce Library requires a tax levy increase that exceeds the tax cap imposed by state law as outlined in General Municipal Law Section 3-c adopted in 2011; and

Whereas, General Municipal Law Section 3-c expressly permits the library board to override the tax levy limit by a resolution approved by a vote of sixty percent of qualified board members; now therefore be it

Resolved, that the Board of Trustees of the Daniel Pierce Library voted and approved to exceed the tax levy limit for 2026 by at least the sixty percent of the board of trustees as required by the state law on January 15, 2025.

Moved by B Eddings, seconded by P Doogan. Motion carried.

2. President Martin presented the E-rate/ CIPA Compliance rules and eligibility for a lower E-rate assessment by being fully CIPA compliant. Proper internet and other policy must be adopted in order to be eligible, including coverage from Spectrum.
3. Garden committee update: M Martin stated that quotes were requested by other landscapers to compare to the cost of the current service provider. The quotes were within \$400 of the current provider. A motion was made and seconded to continue using the current landscape contractor. Motion carried.

M Martin announced that an application for the Sullivan 180 Garden grant will be applied for this year. The grant is in the amount of \$2500.

4. Winter Fest, organized by Town of Neversink Parks and Recreation will be held at the fairgrounds February 8. DPL would like to participate by having a table.

**Committee Updates:**

C Coombe reported on the DPL Building Foundation committee meeting that was held at 5pm the same day.

The Finance Committee met at 6pm the same evening to review the proposed budget for 2026 to be recommended to the Board at the February meeting.

It was moved by B Eddings and seconded by K Kelly to enter Executive session. Motion carried. Trustees entered executive session at 8:50pm. It was moved to exit Executive session by K Kelly and seconded by P Doogan. Motion carried.

The hiring committee will consist of M Martin, P Doogan, B Eddings and K Kelly.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Coombe,  
Recording Secretary