

TOWN OF HUDSON

Library Board of Trustees





603-

816-4501

Hudson Library Board of Trustees Approved Public Meeting Minutes For February 19, 2025

Present:

Trustee, Mary Guessferd, Chair Trustee, Erin Henderson, Vice Chair Trustee, Karen Bohrer, Treasurer Trustee, Margaret St. Onge Trustee, Lisa Weber Linda Pilla, Library Director

Excused:

Selectman, Dillon Dumont

Call to Order: Trustee Guessferd called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. and Trustee Henderson led the pledge of allegiance.

Public Input: None

Reports:

Motion by Trustee Bohrer to accept the Public and Non-Public Minutes of January 15, 2025. Seconded by Trustee Weber. All in favor. Motion passed.

Motion by Trustee Bohrer to accept the Special Meeting Minutes of January 21, 2025. Seconded by Trustee St. Onge. All in favor. Motion passed.

Motion by Trustee Henderson to accept the Special Meeting Minutes of January 29, 2025. Seconded by Trustee St. Onge. All in favor. Motion passed.

Correspondence: None

Treasurer's Report: All finances are in order and there was nothing to remark on. We received the Zylonis letter allowing us to access funds for non-exclusive Lithuanian events. A Cy Pres is no longer required. Trustee Bohrer attended the January 23 meeting of the Trustees of the Trust Fund. Wilmington Trust, who manages the Zylonis Trust Fund, would be happy to attend one of the Trustee meetings to explain guidelines/requirements of this account.

Acceptance of Donations: None

Selectman Liaison's Report: None

Director's Report: See attached.

Friends Report: The Friends have not made a decision yet about having their book sale upstairs in the Hills Building. Director Pilla will keep the Trustees updated on this topic.

Department Heads' Meetings: Meetings have been scheduled for February 27, March 13 and March 27, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

Old Business:

Strategic Plan: There is a kick-off meeting for the Strategic Plan tonight at 7:30 p.m. Focus groups will be set up in the future. If anyone is interested in participating in these focus groups, please get in touch with the library Director or the Library Board of Trustees.

Library Policy Manual Circulation of Materials Policy:

Motion by Trustee Bohrer to approve the Circulation of Materials Policy as presented. Seconded by Trustee St. Onge. All in favor. Motion passed.

New Business:

Personnel Manual Vision & Mission Statements:

Motion by Trustee St. Onge to approve the Vision and Mission Statements as presented. Seconded by Trustee Weber. All in favor. Motion passed.

Personnel Manual Acknowledgement:

Motion by Trustee Bohrer to approve the Acknowledgement as presented. Seconded by Trustee Henderson. All in favor. Motion passed.

Personnel Manual Introduction:

Motion by Trustee Henderson to approve the Introduction as presented. Seconded by Trustee Weber. All in favor. Motion passed.

Personnel Manual Timesheet/Payroll Policy:

Motion by Trustee St. Onge to approve the Timesheet/Payroll Policy as presented. Seconded by Trustee Bohrer. All in favor. Motion passed.

Personnel Manual FMLA Policy:

Motion by Trustee Bohrer to approve the FMLA Policy as presented. Seconded by Trustee Henderson. All in favor. Motion passed.

Personnel Manual Nepotism Policy:

Motion by Trustee Henderson to approve the Nepotism Policy as presented. Seconded by Trustee Bohrer. All in favor. Motion passed.

Personnel Manual ADA Policy: Discussion about revisions to this policy will continue at next regular meeting.

Unsealing Minutes:

Trustees reviewed sealed non-public minutes from 2009 through 2024 and identified and unsealed minutes that were no longer required to be sealed.

Trustee Comments

Trustee Weber: I'm very excited about our Strategic Planning Committee. We are meeting tonight. I'm looking forward to it. We have a lot of town people who are volunteering to help out and I hope that we will pull together and make the library even better than it is. We have great programs.

Trustee Henderson: This is my last meeting. I've been on the Board for 6 years and it's been an absolute pleasure and I've enjoyed most moments of the job. It's been an honor to represent the library and the town residents and being able to build a stronger community. I'm very grateful. I hope the town understands how phenomenal the library is. I'm moving on because it's time for another voice and term limits are good. I'm super excited to see how the Strategic Plan goes this time around. I'm proud of the work we have done over the past few years.

Trustee St. Onge: I would like to thank Erin. It's only been a year for me on the Board, but I've learned a lot and I appreciate what she has brought to the table. Next week is school vacation week and there are lots of programs going on at the library for little ones as well as adults. Programming fills up quick so please don't assume you will be able to just walk in. I did go to the sourdough program which filled up quickly. There were 40 people on the waiting list. The library will be bringing back this program in May. I also went to the art program last night and that was also amazing. This program was attended by people from all areas. One person came from Epping. Thank you to everyone at RML who do the programming. It's amazing and very diverse.

Trustee Bohrer: I've really enjoyed working with Erin in the past and I wish her all the best. Good luck with the continuation of your library career. Thank you so much. I want to also echo Lisa's comment about the Strategic Plan. I hope that all of you who are watching will respond when we ask you for your opinion on the library. I hope everyone in Hudson contributes to the creation of the Plan. This will allow us to have an even better library, if that is possible.

Trustee Guessferd: Thank you to Erin Henderson for everything. I came on board the same time you started. You've been my library degree buddy and we've had some great adventures. Thank you for everything. Programming at RML is incredible. We have a great Board right now and a great library. The future is bright and please get out and vote and make your preferences known.

Director Pilla: We do have a program coming up next week which did not make it onto the calendar. It is a STEM program. You will need to sign up for this program as there will be limited space. Secondly, by the time we meet again next month, the town will have voted. So if you like what you see at RML, please vote for the town budget. We are a very small part of the Hudson Town budget. Please support the town and we can continue to do the great work we've been doing.

Future Agenda Items: Personnel Policies

Next regular meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Cicia Recorder Rodgers Memorial Library

Rodgers Memorial Library Director's Report

Activities for January 2025

Activities for the Library Director in January:

Regular Department Heads' meetings - 01/09, 01/30

All Staff meeting 01/10

Tuesday evening "It's a Good Yarn" group

Mystery Lovers' Book Club

Monthly Library Board of Trustees' meeting

Regular monthly GMILCS Executive and Full Board meetings

NHLA Conference Committee Meeting

Met with GMILCS VP to discuss GMILCS budget for FY26

Regular bi-monthly meeting of the Friends of the Library (FOL)

Met members of the FOL at Hills Memorial Library

NHLA Membership work

New Part-Time Circulation Assistant: I listed a new part-time position to replace TH who resigned in November. Dana Benner, Head of Circulation, Victoria 2`q a, Assistant Director, and I interviewed 4 candidates on February 3, 2025. I am happy to report that we found an excellent candidate for the position. Melissa Small will start work in the Circulation Department on March 3, 2025.

Following the retirement of Marguerite Grant in the Tech Services department, Victoria and Chris have been evaluating "gaps" in their processes to see how we could best fill the library's need for another Technical Services staff member. One of our current staff members, Krista Gursky, has been offered the opportunity to work several shifts each week in Technical Services to learn how to catalog. Krista has been with RML in the Circulation department since 2018 and is excited to add to her library skills. Krista will continue to work with the Circulation department while she undergoes training and will attend workshops and other training opportunities as she learns this vital task.

PROGRAMMING REPORT - Tanya Moesel

with Carrie Loring, Marissa Sweeney, and Maggie Chesna

PROGRAMMING REPORT SUMMARY	Events	Participants	Average
Adult Programming Totals	29	432	15
In-person programming	26	373	14
Passive programming	1	54	54
Virtual Programming	2	5	3
Outreach	0	0	0
Children's Programming Totals	36	878	24
In-person programming	28	582	20
Passive programming	8	296	38
Virtual Programming	0	0	0
Outreach	0	0	0

Tween/Teen Programming Totals	14	42	3
In-person programming	14	42	3
Passive programming	0	0	0
Virtual programming	0	0	0
Outreach	0	0	0
School Outreach Totals	0	0	0
In-person programming	0	0	0
Passive programming	0	0	0
OVERALL TOTALS	79	1352	17

ADULT/ALL-AGES PROGRAMMING

We held our first two programs in the Sustainability Series this month - Basic Beekeeping and a Craft Swap. Both were quite successful. 15 attendees enjoyed Dan Wilson's presentation on beekeeping. Carrie received several emails expressing positive feedback. The craft swap was amazing! We had approximately 50 people bring in donations. Carrie, Chris, Linda, Marissa, Adele (FOL) and much of the circulation staff pitched in to get it all sorted and organized for the two "shopping" days. We had 45 people come through on Friday and 58 on Saturday. Several local school teachers came in who were so thankful to be able to take supplies that they would typically spend their own money on. At least ¾ of what we received was rehomed. All the leftovers were then donated to a new Hudson thrift store, Purfect Thrift. All feedback was positive, and there were many requests to make this a yearly event. Carrie thinks we can make that happen.



Basic Beekeeping

"It was very informative and interactive. I loved that he brought the equipment and explained how it was used. Yes, I would love to attend more of these programs. Thank you"

"I greatly enjoyed the beekeeping class. Dan was very informative and I appreciate him taking the time to explain beekeeping and how we can learn more. I always enjoy the classes and events offered at the library."

Program # of events	Target Age	Participants (average)	Description	
In-Person Programs		26 events, 373 total		
Craft Swap (1/15-18)	All Ages	103 people	You can never have too many craft supplies! Or can you? Looking to clear out your craft supplies or find new materials for your next project? Join us for our Craft Swap at the library.	
Sustainability Series: Basic Beekeeping (1/30)	Adults	15 people	Join Dan Wilson for an engaging presentation on the fascinating world of beekeeping! Whether you're curious about honey production, pollination, or the importance of bees in our ecosystem, this session is perfect for beginners. If you're looking to start your own hive or just want to appreciate these amazing creatures, this presentation will provide you with the knowledge and inspiration to take your first steps into the world of beekeeping. Join us and discover how you can make a difference for our pollinators!	
Vision Board Workshop (1/7)	Adults	14 people	A vision board is a powerful way to jumpstart your year. Please join Diane MacKinnon and she'll walk you through the process of creating your own vision board.	
Empowered Caregivers Empower Care (1/10)	Adults	3 people	Caregivers, start the new year off right with support and encouragement. Cheryl Field returns to RML to give strategies to build resilience and reduce stress.	
Butterfly Zentangle Class 2 events	Adults	12 people (average 6)	Please join Diane MacKinnon for a two-hour class where we'll create and color a beautiful butterfly, symbol of rebirth and renewal, ready for the new year. We'll draw our butterfly, using simple shapes, add our tangles, then color with Derwent Inktense Pencils. We'll go over our piece with a light wash of water to bring out the vibrant colors of the Inktense pencils. • 1/8: 6 people • 1/8: 6 people	
Stitchers' Group 5 events	Adults	52 people (average 10)	People come in to share their ideas, chat, and work on their current projects. 1/3: 13 participants 1/10: 11 participants 1/17: 11 participants 1/24: 8 participants 1/31: 9 participants	

Dungeons & Donuts 2 events	All ages	22 people (average 11)	Patrons of all ages come to the library to play Dungeons & Dragons and eat delicious donuts. • 1/4: 10 participants • 1/18: 12 participants
A Good Yarn 4 events	Adults	46 people (average 12)	Whether you're a seasoned pro or just starting out, everyone is welcome to join us for A Good Yarn. 1/7: 11 people 1/14: 7 people 1/21: 14 people 1/28: 14 people
Rodgers Readers (1/9)	Adults	8 people	Bring Your Own Book
Cookbook Club (1/27)	Adults	16 people	The Complete Autumn and Winter Cookbook
Genealogy Club (1/10)	Adults	5 people	This month we will be working on our family trees and research together. Feel free to bring your own laptops and devices and ask each other questions.
Mystery Lovers Book Club (1/13)	Adults	17 people	Last Call at the Nightingale by Katerine Schellman
Read 'Em & Eat (1/27)	Adults	12 people	The Only One Left by Riley Sagar
Afternoon Book Group (1/21)	Adults	17 people	Murder at the 42nd Street Library by Con Lehane
Crime & Cookies: True Crime Podcast Club (1/22)	Adults	6 people	Remember Crazy Eddie?
Stitchers' Circle with Oonagh Williams (1/11)	Adults	22 people	Monthly get-together to stitch/cross stitch, blackwork, embroider, etc.
Characters & Cocoa (1/21)	Adults	3 people	Characters & Cocoa is a monthly support group for writers to socialize and talk about the craft.
Passive Programs			1 event, 54 total
Monthly Book Raffle	Adults	54 entries	Grey Wolf by Louise Penny
Virtual Programs			2 events, 5 total
Encounters with Killer (1/27)	Adults	4 people	Dr. Katherine Ramsland recounts her most memorable interactions with

			serial killers over the course of her life, describing how it shaped her career in forensic psychology.
Databases: Treasures of the Library (1/28)	Adults	1 person	Databases: things with tech-y names that can actually be a lot of fun. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned explorer, this program will introduce you to what databases are and how they can be an incredible tool for discovering new things. We'll explore how the library's databases can be used to search for fun things including maps, craft ideas, shopping reviews, and newspaper articles.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

The library is a great place to hang out in the winter. We've stayed busy with programs and projects here in the children's room. Patrons have appreciated the opportunity to participate in evening and weekend programming. Take and make crafts continue to be popular. Our story times are bursting at the seams. We have waiting lists every week, but can't safely make space for more bodies in the room while still reaching our early literacy goals. We are looking to expand our story time opportunities next school year. It doesn't look like we have an available room when we have available staff for the winter and spring. Maggie spent January shadowing and co-leading storytimes. She is now trained to step in to lead storytimes as needed.

Program # of events	Target Age	Participants (average)	Description
In-Person Programs		28 events, 582 total	
Masking Tape Art 1/28 6pm	Families	7 people	Families are invited to create a masking tape painting.
Blow-Painting Monsters (rescheduled from 1/11 snow date) 1/25 11am	Families	30 People	Families are invited to create monsters by blow-painting with a straw and watercolor paint.
Family Gingerbread Houses 1/22 6pm	Families	10 People	Families are invited to build and decorate a "gingerbread" house with graham crackers, cookies, pretzels, and candy.
Spin Art and Silhouettes 1/16 6pm	Families	20 People	Spin art and silhouettes is a family program where we use a salad spinner, paper and watercolor to make your art.
Puffy Paint Snowflakes 1/9 6pm	Grades K-5	8 People	Grades K-5 help us turn our library into a winter wonderland with snowflakes. We will use shaving cream puffy paint and glitter to decorate the snowflakes.
Pajama Storytime 1/15 6pm	Families	14 People	The whole family is invited to come in your pjs for stories, songs, and bubbles.

Family Storytime Saturday, 1/25 10am	Families	16 People	Join us for stories, songs, and bubbles.	
Adventurers Storytime Tuesdays 10am, 4 sessions	Ages 3-5	163 People (40 average)	Join Ms. Tanya for stories, songs, games and activities 1/7 (Space) 49 1/14 (Rainbows) 42 1/21 (Snow) 42 1/28 (Pickles) 30	
Movers and Shakers Wednesdays 10 & 10:30, 4 sessions	Ages 1-3	220 People (28 average)	Join Miss Marissa for stories, songs, games and activities 1/8 20, 42 1/15 36, 21 1/22 27, 28 1/29 21, 25	
Postpartum support group First Thursday 1/2 10am	Families	2 people	Gather with other postpartum parents and newborns to talk about how you're healing, what thoughts and feelings you're exploring, and learn together.	
Songs and Snuggles Thursdays 10am	Ages Birth-18 Months	41 people (10 average)	Join Ms. Tanya for songs, snuggles, and baby free play 1/9 10 1/16 10 1/23 9 1/30 12	
Dino Tuesdays 4pm, 4 sessions	All Ages	51 people (13 average)	Come visit Dino. He's a giant St. Bernard who loves to be pet. Dino is a licensed therapy dog. 1/7 17 1/14 8 1/21 19 1/28 7	
Passive Programs		8 programs, 296		
Take & Make	Preschool & early elementary	296 participants	Bagged craft to do at home. • 25 foam animals • 3 surprise crafts • 10 Starfish Chronicle activity sheets • 75 mittens • 12 rainbows • 53 minions • 62 ladybugs • 56 snowflakes	
Scavenger Hunt	Families		10 Arctic animals	



TEEN/TWEEN PROGRAMMING

We've seen more high school students visiting the library. They will sometimes stop in for a snack or say hello, but sometimes they are just looking for a quiet place to hang out or do homework while they wait for the late bus or a ride home. We're working to build some relationships that will hopefully translate into more program participation.

Program # of events	Target Age	Participants (average)	Description		
In Person Programs		14 events, 42			
Teen Hangout Mon- 1/6, 1/13, 1/27 Tues- 1/7, 1/14, 1/21, 1/28 Thurs- 1/2, 1/9, 1/16, 1/23, 1/30 2pm (12pm during midterm days 1/21 and 1/23)	Ages 13-18	42 people (4 average)	Snacks, crafts, and games for teens with weekly themes/activities. No theme day 1/2 5 Hot Cocoa 2, 2, 6 Magnet Painting 2, 2, 5 Mario Kart 3, 1 Marble Run 6, 4, 4		
Tween Writing Club 1/14 7pm	Grades 4-8	0 people	Join Ms. Maggie for Tween Writing Club! You will have 5-10 minutes to create a piece of writing based on a writing prompt.		
Teen Pizza & Painting 1/24 2:30pm	Ages 13-18	0 people	High school students are invited to free paint on canvas, flower pots, or a tote bag. Let your creativity run wild!		

SCHOOL OUTREACH

Tanya spoke to the media specialist at Hills Garrison regarding the summer reading promotion. She loved the field trips last year, so we have planned to have her students visit RML the week before Memorial Day. Tanya will reach out to other schools in the second week of February.

Program # of events	Target Age	Participants (average)	Description
In Person Programs			

REFERENCE REPORT - Mark Stawecki

Museums

Circulation was a bit on the low side, which is not surprising given the weather and re-start of the school year. The only organization in double digits was the NE Aquarium at 10 checkouts. The next two were the MFA and SEE Science Center at six each.

However, we are gearing up for the spring. Five purchase orders were submitted for renewal, some for seasonal attractions. We also received a discount code for Wolf Hollow. At the time of this report, Mark had submitted a tech ticket with OCLC to have Wolf Hollow added to MuseumKey. Once that is completed and it is added to the website, we can begin advertising it.

Social Media

Rodger That! Google Analytics shows 368 new users for an average engagement time of 18 seconds. No new reviews were added.

YouTube We have 99 subscribers, two more than last month. There were 383 total views and 6.1 hours of watch time. No new content was added.

Facebook 1,875 followers, 21 more than last month; 25 posts; The post with the most Interactions at 33 was a video post showing the set-up for our craft swap and all the materials we received.

Twitter / X 566 followers, two less than last month; 23 tweets including reposts

Instagram 13 posts including Reels; 347 followers (gained three); 115 interactions

Genealogy

In January, we held a study session where patrons did their research together and Mark was available for assistance; there was no speaker. Five people attended, a few more than the last time we held a study session.

There were no genealogy requests outside of the event.

Non-Library Programs

GROUP	DATE	ATTENDANCE
Rotary Club	Jan 9, Jan 23	14, 6
Alvirne Alumni	Jan 15	6 (2 online)
Hudson Democrats	Jan 16	4
YouthNet	Jan 17	9
Lockwood Place	Jan 23	20

Total attendance = 61

Study Rooms	45 instances, 111 attendees
Study Carrels	12 instances
Patron PCs	165 and 92 Guest users

Other

Tax preparation took place throughout January with the library booking appointments starting on January 15. The VITA supervisor said that he did not have time to email an announcement as he had previously, which most likely accounted for a quieter start.

Mark ran a program called "Databases: Treasures of the Library." Four registered, only one attended.

IT/Tech Services Report - Victoria Sandin

Routine Tasks

Google Business Profile

GOOGLE SEARCH

From Google Business: Performance.

NOTE: Google Business has changed how it delivers and displays its data. See information below, which includes a description of each category.

Business Profile (BP) Interactions (vs. January 2024)

Interactions are when people: Call, message, and/or ask for directions and more from our Business Profile on Google.

Rodgers' BP interactions compared to last year at this time:

- Overview: 1,280, +10.5%
- Calls (calls made from our BP):101, -4.7 %
- Directions (direction requests made from our BP): 171, +1.2%
- Website clicks (website clicks made from our BP): 1,008, +14.3%

Business Profile (BP) Views

Views show how many people saw our BP on Google Search or Maps.

Views: 1,744, +12.2%

Business Profile (BP) Searches

Searches show the terms people used that returned our BP in the results.

• Searches: 1,105, +10.1% from this time last year

January

BPI numbers continued to improve in January, which correlates with a rise in website traffic. People looking for stuff to do?

3-Month Fic and NonFic circ stats to date: Oct Nov Dec 24

This report tracks NEW NonFiction and Fiction book checkouts over a 12-week period. The books below were available for checkout **Sep 4 - Nov 4, 2024**, and are sorted from most to least checkouts. It also includes the name of the librarian who ordered the item(s).

3-month fiction circs 02012025.xlsx

3-month nonfiction circs 02012025.xlsx

Website

• There were 45 changes to the website in December 2024.

Telephone calls

Incoming: 660

Outgoing: 202

• Total: 862

Technology Tickets

• We responded to 15 requests for IT help from staff

Library H3lp (chat program)

• 7 chats using the website Chat app.

Princh (wireless printing)

284 print jobs

Technical Services

Additions (physical items): 259

Better World Books: 148

• Changes to GMILCS items: 93

Deletions/Withdrawals: 1238

• Graphic novels: 0

• Mending: 122

• OCLC records obtained: 29

CIRCULATION REPORT - Dana Benner

SPECIAL EVENTS/NEWS

Library visitors were 5,298 in January. This reflects an increase of 11% over December.

Notary Service(s): 18

Hours: The library was open **232** hours during January. We were closed for New Year's Day (8 hours), Martin Luther King Day (8 hours) and Saturday, January 11 (4 hours for snow). We were open 224 hours in December 2024. We issued 60 new patron cards in January. Total active patrons stand at 8,595.

We had 3 patrons utilizing our Books by Mail program.

Circulation

	Dec	Jan	Increase/Decrease	Jan	Jan	Increase/Decrease
	2024	2025		2024	2025	
Adult	2,519	2,581	2.5%	2,937	2,581	12%
YA	233	236	1.3%	279	236	15%
Children's	2,593	2,970	14.5%	3,172	2,970	6.4%
Tween	188	264	40%	244	264	8.2%
TOTAL	5,533	6,051	9.4%	6,632	6,051	8.8%

Downloadable eAudiobooks, eBooks and ePeriodicals

	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Percent Change
eAudiobooks	1139+58=1197	1245+89=1334	11.4%
eBooks	600+102=702	623+102=725	3.3%
ePeriodicals	304	354	16.4%

Kanopy updated

	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Percent Change/ Notes
Visits	493	592	20.1%
Pages	631	765	21.2%
Plays	99	140	41.4%
Total # users	128	137	new users 9

Interlibrary Loan

		Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Percent Change
Materials	Requested	130	89	31.5%
Requested by	Filled	96	84	12.5%
Hudson patrons	Percent filled	73.8%	94.4%	
Materials lent by	Requested	84	82	2.4%
RML to	Filled	73	73	No change
other libraries	Percent filled	86.9%	89.0%	

GMILCS Statistics

Oct 2024 - RML is currently a <u>net borrower</u> of GMILCS items as our patrons borrow more items that originate from other GMILCS libraries than we send to the other member libraries. These numbers also reflect the books borrowed for the 5 book groups in the library. These numbers will fluctuate from month to month.

RML as Assigned Library	637	- RML items checked out at other libraries - Does not include RML items circulated from RML - Number is for items circulated.
RML patron Circulations	6,179	Checkouts and Renewals by RML Patrons at all GMILCS libraries
RML as loaning library (items from other libraries checked out at RML	913	-Items from other libraries checked out at RML - Does not include RML items circulated from RML - Number is for items circulated.

Respectfully Submitted, Linda Pilla Library Director