

Croton Free Library Association
2015 Annual Meeting
April 19, 2016
Ottinger Room, Croton Free Library, Croton-on-Hudson, NY

MINUTES OF CROTON FREE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING
April 19, 2016

Marianne Merola, President of the Croton Free Library Association, called the meeting to order at 7:14 by welcoming everyone, giving a short overview of who the Association is, and reminding all that only members could vote, and any non-members were invited to join.

The minutes from the 2015 annual meeting were circulated.

A motion to accept the minutes was made and seconded. The motion carried.

Karen Zevin, Treasurer of the Croton Free Library Association, read the Treasurer's Report.

Revenues totaled \$41,490.50 and exceeded those of the 2014 fiscal year by 32%.

After a gift to the library of \$25,000, presented at this meeting, and spending close to \$10,000 on improved shelves and signage for the in-Library book sale, new signs for our semi-annual Book & Bake Sale, a new donation box, and other miscellaneous costs, the Association maintains a balance of approximately \$19,000.

The 2015 Annual Appeal raised a total of \$19,459.00.

The Donation Box has raised over \$70 in its first month alone.

The 2015 Spring and Fall Book & Bake Sales raised a total of \$20,428.50.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made and seconded. The motion carried.

Kelly Thomann, President of the Board of Trustees of the Croton Free Library, gave her annual report. Kelly introduced herself and emphasized the importance of knowing one's mission statement with the Croton Free Library's mission statement being to "Encourage the joy of learning." Kelly also gave a brief overview of the board and its responsibilities. She then introduced Dorothy Worthall to highlight the Library's Gallery Exhibit.

Dorothy is a member of the group who tends the Library's Gallery. The presentations are changed every five to six weeks and have included topics such as Day of the Dead, Hawk Migration, Children's Art, Butterfly Migration, and Voting Procedures presented by the League of Women Voters. It is more of an "interest" gallery than an art gallery, and when it is primarily art, the works are related to a particular subject matter. No sales are generated from the gallery. Inquiries are forwarded to the artist.

Marianne Merola regained the podium calling the gallery a "good example of community participation."

A motion to accept the President's report was made and seconded. The motion carried.

Yvonne Cech presented a summary of her first year as the Director of the Croton Free Library including what had been accomplished and what could be expected in the future. Yvonne introduced Jesse Bourdon, Assistant Directory of the Library. She also laid out the numerous accomplishments of the past year, including:

- A New Youth Library Card designed and selected by students
- A New Safety Plan
- Updated Museum Passes
- Updated Internet and Computers; Including Wireless Printing
- Implementation of Ottinger Gallery Tours
- Success of Croton Reads
- All Staff Trained in Safety
- Improved Staff Communication with the full implementation of e-mail
- Croton on Hudson Newspapers Digitized and now Searchable
- Building Improvements, Including a New Generator; In the event of a power outage, the Library can run seven to ten days on propane

Yvonne also highlighted the Library's plans for the upcoming year:

- Creation of a Maker Space
- Highlighting the Availability of Online Subscriptions
- New Carpeting for the building and a shifting of the layout
- Expanding the DVD Selection
- Creating a Local Croton on Hudson Section

She emphasized that "Libraries equal Information."

Marianne thanked Melanie Dodson for her service to the Board as her term came to a close. She was presented with flowers, and a bookplate was affixed to Thirteen Ways of Looking by Colum McCann, Melanie's choice, to immortalize her trusteeship.

Marianne presented Mary McFerran as a nominee for the vacant Board of Trustees seat.

A motion to accept her as a new member of the Board was made and seconded. The motion carried.

Marianne then presented Elizabeth Hiller and Lori Zablow as candidates for re-election to the posts of Association Co-Vice Presidents and Karen Zevin as a candidate for re-election to the office of Association Treasurer.

Motions to elect were made and seconded. All motions carried.

When Joe Pieroni stepped down from the Association Secretary position in the summer of 2015, the remaining Association Officers appointed Meredith Hertlein to that role for the remainder of his term.

Marianne presented Meredith Hertlein as a candidate for election to the post of Association Secretary.

The motion to elect was made and seconded. The motion carried.

Highlights of the Association from the past year were presented:

- Annual Appeal Success
- February Food Drive Success
- Revamping of the Spring Book & Bake Sale for improved organization
- Increasing the Fall Book & Bake Sale to a two-day event

Thanks were given to Art Almeida and Bill Altman for their help throughout the year.

Patricia Foley was also appreciated and recognized for her dedication and volunteer work.

Patricia was a key factor in the success of the renovated ongoing gently-used book sale in the Library corridor call “Just Right Reads.”

On behalf of the Association, Marianne presented a check to Library Director Yvonne Cech for \$25,000.

A few reminders of upcoming events were given:

- The Spring Book & Bake Sale on May 21st and 22nd
 - Donations of book and baked goods encouraged
 - Volunteers needed for Set-up on May 19th and 20th
 - Volunteers also needed for the sale
- The Library Budget Vote on May 17th
 - At the Croton-Harmon High School
- The Library will have a booth at Summerfest on June 5th

Finally, Marianne thanked each and every person for their contributions, large and small and thanked everyone for the privilege of leading the Association, “The Friends of the Croton Free Library.”

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 PM.