

**Transcript of the Hendrick Hudson Free Library  
2020 Annual Meeting (via GoToMeeing)  
June 25, 2020**

**Trustees present: Cynthia Neff, Mark Geisler, Phil Brandon, Kevin Quigley,  
Charles Smith, Francoise LeGoues, Agnes Leyden, Jeffrey Schwartz**

**Also present: M. Jill Davis, Director, Trustee Elect, Barbara Burke, Community Member Lindsey Marcus**

- Jill Davis  
This conference will now be recorded.
  
- Cynthia Neff  
Ok, I'd like to call the meeting to order at 6:04 pm. on Thursday, June 25th, 2020.  
Let's stand for the pledge.  
  
{Pledge of Allegiance recited}
  
- Cynthia Neff  
Let's go around and do introductions.
  
- Jill Davis  
I think everybody should just let me say their name.
  
- Mark Geisler  
Mark Geisler.  
I only have my first name; I'll have to figure out how to change that for our next meeting.
  
- Francoise LeGoues  
Francoise LeGoues, and I have my full name.
  
- Agnes Leyden  
Agnes Leyden, you got my name there.  
I'm retiring at the end of June next Tuesday.
  
- Barbara Burck  
Barbara Burck, and I don't know how to get my first name on there.
  
- Phil Brandon  
Phil Brandon and I know that's true, because it had my name up there when I enabled my camera.
  
- Cynthia Neff  
Ok, I'm Cynthia Neff.
  
- Kevin Quigley  
I'm Kevin Quigley, via phone.
  
- Jeff Schwartz  
Jeff Schwartz, via phone.

- **Charles Smith**  
I am Chuck Smith via dial in.
- **Jill Davis**  
Ok, I'm Jill Davis, Director.
- **Cynthia Neff**  
Let's see, let's go to the minutes.  
We need, these are the minutes from our April 22nd, 2019 Annual Meeting.
- **Francoise LeGoues**  
Are we trying to share the screen or are we looking at our own. Which one's better for everybody?
- **Jill Davis**  
Since everyone received the information easier if we all just look at those if that's OK.
- **Francoise LeGoues**  
That's fine.
- **Cynthia Neff**  
Oh, I'd like to waive the reading of the minutes if everyone is in favor of that we would need a motion to accept the April 2019 minutes and waive the reading of the minutes.
- **Phil Brandon**  
In typical Johnny come lately fashion I noticed a couple of typos in here and there. And there is a typo in these minutes.
- **Jill Davis**  
I did get I did get the one typo in the minutes to trustee.
- **Phil Brandon**  
Ok.
- **Jill Davis**  
The other typos that you gave me were in the Annual Meeting Report.  
That will be corrected before we put it into the file.
- **Jill Davis**  
So if you want to make the motion to accept the 2019 Annual Meeting minutes, waiving the reading of them with the one correction.
- **Mark Geisler**  
I make that motion.
- **Cynthia Neff**  
Thank. You, Mark.
- **Phil Brandon**  
Second.

Cynthia Neff

All in favor?

- Jeff Schwartz

I'm sorry. I need to abstain.

- Jill Davis

Jeff, No, you don't you were there. This was the April 2019 Annual Meeting minutes.

Yes, you were.

- Jeff Schwartz

Oh, great then I'm good with them.

- Cynthia Neff

Ok, we can move on then to our Treasurer's Report.

- Jeff Schwartz

Ok, I'm going to refer back to Jill.

- Jill Davis

Ok, Jeff, do you want to read the statement?

Or you want me to read it?

- Jeff Schwartz

Oh, I'll read the statement. Sure.

The Hendrick Hudson Free Library's 2020-2021 library operating budget was scheduled to be voted on, May 19, 2020. Due to the COVID19 pandemic the budget vote was postponed until June 16th, and by Executive Order was held by absentee ballot only. The results of the vote were announced on June 17th. The Hendrick Hudson School District voters passed the library budget with 68% voter approval. The library's budget reflects a 4.8% levy increase, which is a 1.4% budget to budget increase. This represents approximately \$50,500 increase over last year. The average taxpayer in the Town of Cortlandt will see an annual increase of \$7.64 per thousand dollars of assessed value and Peekskill taxpayers will see an annual increase of \$11.48 per thousand assessed value. For the average taxpayer living in the Town of Cortlandt this means library services will cost \$204 per year and in Peekskill that yearly number would be \$108.

- Francoise LeGoues

This result was lower than average percentage.

- Jill Davis

It was a lower percentage than average.

There were over 3400 ballots that were received, so that's a lot more than what is usually received.

- Francoise LeGoues

That's what I was wondering, I want.

- Agnes Leyden

I'd like to comment on the chart that Jill has been keeping, all these years.

She did send it to all of us showing the percentage of those who vote for library budget and the school district budgets over the last 20 some years, more than 20 years, and it's a wonderful resource. Find it in

your e-mail and keep it. It showed that last year and in the previous year, about 1100 votes were cast both of those years. Those were higher than normal.

Because two years ago we also had the bond issue and last year we had a hotly, contested, trustee election.

- **Francoise LeGoues**  
We had really high numbers the last two years
- **Agnes Leyden**  
This year we had 3400 that just shows that people voted.
- **Francoise LeGoues**  
It also means that this voting by mail saying is a good thing.
- **Phil Brandon**  
It really is a higher with turnout, no doubt.
- **Francoise LeGoues**  
It gets people engaged.
- **Agnes Leyden**  
I guess also noting that the two previous year's budget past, like 81%, which I.
- **Francoise LeGoues**  
Understand I understand.
- **Phil Brandon**  
In effect, you can read into it as to whether people who are inclined to approve or dissent, maybe feel more empowered to participate if the mail in option is available.  
And as such, if that's true, then even though it's a lesser percentage, it's still a more accurate picture of the way the public feels. We could perhaps assert that more people want their voices heard.
- **Cynthia Neff**  
They want their voices heard, but only when it's convenient, mail in, right?
- **Phil Brandon**  
And that's true but at least it does facilitate you getting a more accurate sample, yes.
- **Cynthia Neff**  
I don't, I don't know if I necessarily agree with that, because I think.  
It could be, it could have been very convenient for people to vote negatively.
- **Phil Brandon**  
I mean, I don't know, but I'm just wondering what it means.
- **Agnes Leyden**  
A lot more people had the opportunity to vote positively as well.
- **Francoise LeGoues**  
I know, you can't read too much into these issues. This is not normal, you know, people may have just said, this is a terrible time. So I don't think we can read too much into each year's results.

- **Phil Brandon**  
Don't know, maybe the only way to determine that is in a better year when society is operating at a more even keel and has the same opportunity to vote in this manner, and see if there's a comparable result.
- **Francoise LeGoues**  
Yeah. That would be the only way to do it.
- **Cynthia Neff**  
Ok. Can we continue? Any other further discussion? Okay, we're going to move on to our Board of Trustees Appointments.
- **Cynthia Neff**  
We do have three new board members.  
We have Gina Goodenow, Barbara Burck is here with us, and Tammy Trudel. They were approved at our June 10th, 2020 meeting.
- **Phil Brandon**  
Do we need some sort of motion to increase the number of board member to 10?  
Is that something we have to do?
- **Jill Davis**  
That's the next thing on the agenda Phil.
- **Cynthia Neff**  
Ok, so welcome to Barbara, welcome again.
- **Barbara Burck**  
Thank you again.
- **Cynthia Neff**  
Glad you are joining us this evening, and even though you don't have a voting spot just yet, but I'm glad you're here to join us. So let's move on.
- **Cynthia Neff**  
We have to do our New York State annual trustee update, which is a requirement for us as a Board of Trustees. So we are going to need a motion to approve the number of voting trustee's as 10 for the 2020, 2021 fiscal year.
- **Francoise LeGoues**  
I make the motion.
- **Cynthia Neff**  
Thank you, Francoise.
- **Cynthia Neff**  
Can I have a second?
- **Kevin Quigley**  
Can I ask a question before we approve that?  
Is the fact that we have an even number of trustees an issue, or a potential issue?

- **Jill Davis**  
 In our charter, we're allowed to have between 7 and 11 trustees, so 10 lies within our charter. I think that it's always nice to have an odd number, but also sometimes there are trustees who can't make it to every single meeting so we ended up having an odd number anyhow. And another thing in my time here the majority of the votes have been unanimous. I think that the board is pretty cohesive in the way that they want to move the library forward. So I, I don't think it's an issue.
- **Phil Brandon**  
 Is there a tiebreaker mechanism, just out of curiosity?
- **Jill Davis**  
 No.
- **Cynthia Neff**  
 I think as a board that the discussions that we have before an issue comes to a vote is what has kept us unanimous in decisions or for the most part. Also I credit Jill with providing us with more than adequate information for us to base decisions on and, the open conversation that we do have around the table.
- **Agnes Leyden**  
 In my 12 years I don't remember ever having had a motion that wasn't unanimous. Mark, do you remember anything?
- **Agnes Leyden**  
 The only reason people didn't vote on something was because it might have been an abstention if you weren't there for the approving minutes of a meeting, you weren't at.
- **Mark Geisler**  
 It's possible there was a vote that was not unanimous, but I'm not positive.
- **Cynthia Neff**  
 Ok, so, we will need someone to make that motion to approve that the number of voting Trustee positions for our 2020-2021 fiscal year will be 10.
- **Jill Davis**  
 It's Françoise, even though she's muted.
- **Cynthia Neff**  
 Ok, Agnes seconds it. All in favor? Thank you.  
 Alright Jill, this is your spot for Directors Annual report.
- **Jill Davis**  
 Right, and since we are doing this virtually, I sent it out to everybody so I won't read it to you, but I will offer to answer any questions if there's any questions or comments about the Annual Report. And remember, this annual report is the 2020 Annual Report, but it covers the 2019 calendar year calendar year.
- **Jill Davis**  
 It's usually just chock full of information about what's been happening, the highlights of what's been happening at the library throughout the year. Along with the Annual Meeting Report, that was the PDF that I sent.

- Agnes Leyden  
This one that I love, the Annual Meeting report, this one?
- Jill Davis  
Yes.
- Agnes Leyden  
Statistics for fiscal year of facts and figures are July 2018 thru June 2019, right?
- Jill Davis  
The statistics are for the last completed fiscal year.
- Agnes Leyden  
You said it was for a calendar year, didn't you mean fiscal because we run on a fiscal?
- Jill Davis  
Well, we're on a fiscal year, but what I report in my Director's Report is for all of 2019, because it's the last year completed. Our current fiscal year is July 2019-June 2020 and it feels odd to report on something that happened at the end of 2019 in 2021.
- Cynthia Neff  
Ok. No questions, then we can go to public comments.
- Jill Davis  
Lindsey you're the only public so, if you don't have any questions or comments
- Agnes Leyden  
Barbara is technically public until the end of the month.
- Jill Davis  
True, Barbara, you're technically public.
- Cynthia Neff  
Are there any questions or comments?
- Cynthia Neff  
And we're not having a musical program this evening unless Agnes is singing.
- Jill Davis  
What about Agnes' daughter? Had I been thinking we could have had her join us and she could have been our performer?
- Francoise LeGoues  
Yes.
- Agnes Leyden  
Yeah, next year you can ask that.
- Cynthia Neff  
Ok, other than that, Jill, is there anything else you have that you wanted to share with us?

- **Jill Davis**  
Well, there are certain items that have to take place during the annual meeting and we've covered them all and we did have a meeting June 10th where I think we went over most all of the information that has been happening since February.
- **Francoise LeGoues**  
Well, I have a question that's not related to a meeting, but to the library.  
How is curbside pickup going along?
- **Jill Davis**  
It's going very well and this we started letting patrons in by appointment only, and that's working well, too. We have anywhere from, 15 to 25 people who asked to come in during the day.  
Sometimes it's for notary and sometimes it's browsing for books. We have one young man who's been using the study room upstairs. Restrooms are closed other than the staff restroom is open, and the restroom on the second year by my office, is open. No one except for the staff and people using the study rooms are using them. This hasn't been a problem since patrons aren't allowed to stay in the building more than an hour so there hasn't been too much need, but if there is, we do have one restroom that is cleaned every single day.
- **Francoise LeGoues**  
Ok? It's good.
- **Agnes Leyden**  
Did you get your masks?
- **Jill Davis**  
No, we have not, although I did get in touch with her and she thought that she'd have them for us on Wednesday, but I haven't received them.
- **Agnes Leyden**  
She said they were ready.
- **Francoise LeGoues**  
A friend of mine is making tons of them if you need masks.
- **Agnes Leyden**  
I made 36 of them for the library.
- **Jill Davis**  
Wonderful, I'll reach out to her again tomorrow. I'm sure she's just very busy with delivering too.
- **Agnes Leyden**  
She gets migraines. You have to pick them up, but I'm happy to pick them up for you if she tells me that they're ready.
- **Cynthia Neff**  
Ok, any other questions or comments?
- **Agnes Leyden**  
Thank you all for 12 for wonderful years. I'm thrilled that you're going to be moving forward in such a positive direction and know I'm not going anywhere. I'll be at next year's annual meeting.

- **Agnes Leyden**  
Now, I have to pay now fines. Did you know that, Barbara? Once you're a trustee you don't have to pay fines.
- **Barbara Burck**  
I didn't know that.
- **Francoise LeGoues**  
When I joined the board and I thought they were joking and then they said no and I thought wow.
- **Jill Davis**  
Remember we are in amnesty mode from now until January.
- **Cynthia Neff**  
Thank you again Agnes, I will miss having you on this board with us.  
But we know where to find you, so when we need community input we will be calling you.
- **Agnes Leyden**  
Any more IT help, you know where to come. John said he'd do anything for Jill.
- **Cynthia Neff**  
Thank you for joining us this evening. I'm going to close this meeting at 6 25 PM. we will let you know about the September meeting.