

Mount Pleasant Public Library: Board of Trustees Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting of November 20, 2025

Trustees & Liaisons present:

Kent Anker, Frank Casale, Julie Edwards, Edward Eisenman, Meredith Hale, Alexandra Kisielewski, Anthony Lohay, Dick Malina
Paul Alvarez (Village Liaison), Thomas Saliano (Town Liaison)

Also present:

Eric McCarthy, Library Director
Martha Mesiti, Assistant Library Director
Nick Wargo, New Library Trustee

Trustees & Liaisons absent:

Rebecca Myers

Call to order

Administrative: Trustee Anthony Lohay called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM, seconded by Trustee Julie Edwards.

Minutes

The minutes of the October 16, 2025 Board meeting were approved. Moved by Trustee Frank Casale, seconded by Trustee Anthony Lohay, and passed.

Opportunity to Hear from the Public - None

Opportunity to Hear from Liaisons

Village Liaison Paul Alvarez reported that as a result of a referendum, Village elections have moved from a March to November schedule. He will be running for another term. The Village has been focusing on social events for the upcoming holiday season. On Sunday, December 7, there will be a holiday celebration with an ice rink in Memorial Plaza, followed by a tree lighting ceremony (6:00pm) in the Civic Space.

Town Liaison Tom Saliano reported that he has been reelected to the Town Board and that he has decided to retire from Pleasantville Country Club.

Claims of Payment

After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Edward Eisenman, and seconded by Trustee Julie Edwards, that:

It is hereby resolved that, after review, the Library Board approves the following payments for the month of October 2025:

- Invoices charged against Trust & Agency Funds: \$1,120.46
- Invoices charged against the General Fund: \$128,789.93
- General fund invoices paid via the Library credit card: \$1,839.86

*General Fund increase is attributed to three pay periods in the month of October

202511-01 The motion passed.

Directors Report

After discussion, it was resolved that voting on the Library Budget for 2026 will be tabled one month and discussed at the December meeting.

After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Julie Edwards, and seconded by Trustee Edward Eisenman, that:

It is hereby resolved that the Library Board delegates authority to the Finance Committee to approve the Regina Landscaping contract pending receipt of further information.

*Library Director McCarthy requested Regina Landscaping opt to use electric equipment. Company response regarding this request is still pending. Finance Committee will evaluate company response once received and advise/authorize signing of new contract.

202511-02 The motion passed.

After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Meredith Hale, and seconded by Trustee Julie Edwards, that:

It is hereby resolved that the Library Board accepts the contract for Atlantic Westchester to be signed.

202511-03 The motion passed.

After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Meredith Hale, and seconded by Trustee Alex Kisielewski, that:

It is hereby resolved that the Library Board accepts the contract for Bill Link to be signed.

202511-04 The motion passed.

Old Business

Library Board President Kent Anker provided an update on the status of the Master Plan construction project. Priorities for this project include: ACM abatement, adult meeting rooms, programming and community spaces, children's rooms (with soundproof considerations), and elevator to mezzanine (ADA compliance). The library continues discussions with the Town and Village regarding budget considerations for this project. The library plans to begin applying funds from a \$700,000 grant from Assemblymember Shimsky's office toward Master Plan costs in 2026.

The Master Plan project will move forward in the following ways:

1. Library Board and Director will investigate options for continuing Library services throughout construction;
2. establish a working group with Town and Village representatives to advise throughout the project;
3. request revised drawing plans from architect HMA2 with the intention of breaking ground in 2026;
3. Set up a meeting with Village and Town representatives before January to discuss respective financial commitments for upcoming years;
4. begin thinking about public engagement strategies to incorporate community input (especially Pleasantville and Mount Pleasant schools that actively engage with library services)

New Business

Library Director McCarthy received an email from an artist requesting to serve wine at an upcoming art show to be hosted in the library. The Board of Trustees unanimously voted to deny this request as a resolution. The Board will revisit the library's official policy on serving alcoholic beverages as a guideline for future requests.

Trustee Julie Edwards suggested the Library discuss fundraising options with Friends of the Mount Pleasant Library.

The library's contract with its current lawyer will expire in December 2025. As such, the library is seeking to hire a new lawyer and will actively interview interested parties.

Executive Session

At 8:07 PM, on a motion by Trustee Frank Casale, seconded by Trustee Julie Edwards, the Board went into Executive Session.

202511-05 The motion passed.

At 8:38 PM, on a motion by Trustee Frank Casale, seconded by Trustee Edward Eisenman, the Board came out of Executive Session.

202511-06 The motion passed.

Trustee Julie Edwards moved for adjournment at 8:38 pm, seconded by Trustee Anthony Lohay.

202511-07 The motion passed.

Next Meeting

Next regular meeting: Thursday, December 18 at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Alex Kisielewski
Secretary