



**NRPL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, March 4, 2026**  
**Zoom Meeting**

NRPL Board President Lucille Renwick called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Lucille Renwick, President  
Corey Galloway, Vice President  
Rhiannon Navin, Secretary  
Fela Cortés  
Tatiana Infante  
Vera Salter  
Nancy Weinberger

**ADMINISTRATION**

Eugenia Schatoff, Library Director

**INFRASTRUCTURE BOND - DISCUSSION AND VOTE**

- Budget/Finance Committee Chair Rhiannon reviewed all the bond-related materials shared with the Board ahead of the meeting.
- The Board discussed the potential impact of a \$55 million bond for library renovations on New Rochelle's tax payers. The 25-year financing options would mean a \$204.99 annual increase in taxes for the average household, or \$17 per month.
- When a public library seeks voter approval for a bond, the approval does not mean the funds are immediately issued or spent. Instead, voter approval authorizes the library to borrow up to the approved amount to fund the project.
- In this case, if the voters approve the bond in May 2026, the library will not issue the bond right away. The bond will only be issued when funds are needed- typically just before construction begins, which for our project is projected for 2028.
- This approach ensures that the library does not carry debt unnecessarily before funds are required, and it allows for careful financial planning. Tax impacts on residents are calculated based on the actual bond issuance and repayment schedule, not the voter approval date.
- The bond scope is based on an estimate provided by CALGI to set the scope of work. Once the voters approve the bond amount, the planning of the project can begin.
- The board discussed other potential funding sources for the needed infrastructure and renovation work and concluded that all avenues have been considered and pursued, such as the successful lobbying of state representatives to receive \$1 million towards the roof replacement project, but that reaching the needed amount for the suggested scope of work can only be brought in through a bond.
- The Board discussed concerns about a compressed timeline to bring this request to the voters and garner support. The Board also discussed concerns about the additional tax burden on New Rochelle residents. The Library Director and Chairs of the Budget/Finance and Buildings' Grounds committees explained that the appropriate process for pursuing a bond has been followed. The Board agreed that a

comprehensive communications plan has to be developed to engage with stakeholders such as the Foundation and the Friends, as well as the voting public to explain the necessity of this project and the funding of it through a bond.

- The Board reiterated the dire condition of the building, especially the key infrastructure such as the HVAC system and the roof, and the responsibility of the trustees to address the building's condition.
- Rhiannon introduced the Project SEQRA Resolution about the environmental impact of the project. This resolution uses the "Building Renovation" project description in the 1/14/26 CALGI estimate to set the Scope of the work, and is based on the building being a "Class A" structure (structural steel:)

## **PROJECT SEQRA RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) is a New York State process that requires government agencies to assess environmental impacts before making decisions on certain projects or actions; and

WHEREAS The goal of the SEQR process is to ensure that environmental factors are considered early in the planning stages and that potential impacts are identified, avoided, or minimized; and

WHEREAS projects involving replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure or facility, in kind, on the same site, including upgrading buildings to meet building, energy, or fire codes, actions to retrofit of an existing structure and its appurtenant areas to incorporate green infrastructure, and maintenance of existing landscaping or natural growth, are listed in 6 NYCRR 617.5 as "Type II"; and

WHEREAS the attached scope ("Scope") of the below-described Project to be undertaken by the Library (the "project"), the scope of which is attached as "A", lists only work consistent with a "Type II" project; and

WHEREAS the Library building at 1 Library Plaza being a Type "A" building and educational facility;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Library as lead agency classifies the Project as a Type II action under the State Environmental Quality Review Act.

Rhiannon made a motion to approve the SEQRA resolution, seconded by Tatiana Infante, approved unanimously.

- Rhiannon introduced a resolution requesting the school district to hold a special meeting to vote on the proposition:

WHEREAS per Education Law 260 (10) the board of trustees of a public library established and supported by a school district, in addition to any other powers conferred in this chapter, shall have the power to require that the board of education call, give notice of and conduct a special district meeting in accordance for the purpose of authorizing the issuance of obligations of the school district for construction of library facilities; and

WHEREAS the Board has decided to move forward with a project to renovate and renew the Library's facility and property at 1 Library Plaza, New Rochelle, New York (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS the Board has made the required SEQRA determination classifying the Project as a Type II action;

BE IT RESOLVED that the New Rochelle Public Library Board of Trustees directs the New Rochelle City School District to call a special meeting of school district voters to vote upon a proposition authorizing the financing and construction of the Library Renovation and Renewal Project (the "Project").

Rhiannon made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Corey Galloway, motion passed 6-1 with Nancy Weinberger voting against the resolution.

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

None

The meeting was adjourned at 1:04 pm, with a motion by Lucille Renwick, seconded by Tatiana Infante and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rhiannon Navin, Secretary

**A recording of the meeting can be found on the library's website: [www.nrpl.org](http://www.nrpl.org).**