

Michael Clark



I am a Trustee of the Pound Ridge Library Board, appointed recently to fill a vacancy. It is my hope to serve on the Board for a 3-year term, beginning in September 2022. My spouse and I have called Pound Ridge our home for the past 10 years. We are both retired physicians with talented children – Dan is a high school physics teacher in lower Westchester, and Allison a doctor-in-training in Florida. I have taken on a wide variety of roles during my medical career – cardiac transplantation researcher at Columbia-Presbyterian hospital, clinical cardiologist in Bronxville, New York, and, most recently, consultant to the life insurance industry. Libraries have played an important role at each stage of my career. They enabled me to meet the strict requirements of medical school, to contribute to progress in the transplantation field, to keep up with the latest medical advances for my patients, and to support the life insurance industry catering to the insurance needs of those with medical impairments. The Pound Ridge Library has always been an important resource for the community. I hope my contributions as Library trustee over the next three years will enhance the growth and development of the programs and initiatives already in progress.

What skills would you bring to the board?

Since my appointment in May of this year, I have been able to parlay my clinical, corporate and community experience to work effectively with the Library Trustee Board:

Teamwork and consensus building – My role as Senior Vice President for 20 years at Swiss Re Life & Health America, managing a global team of 10 physicians, provided ample opportunity to understand the value of team decision-making and consensus development.

Community engagement – Co-chairing (with my wife) the Pleasantville Parent Council as well as the Pleasantville International Travel Association were rewarding experiences that were also learning opportunities. My ability to engage in the community outreach projects stems from those situations.

Respecting privacy – While in clinical cardiology practice and also while in the corporate insurance world, respecting patient/client privacy was an important legal and ethical imperative. I've dealt with sensitive information daily for close to 30 years.

How does a public library best serve its community?

The definition of a public library by DeGruyter (<https://www.degruyter.com>) resonates here: “...to provide resources and services in a variety of media to meet the needs of individuals and groups for education, information, and personal development...”

By this definition, the Pound Ridge Library is serving its community quite well:

An excellent source for up-to-date fiction and non-fiction

Committed to providing content in multiple convenient formats, including audio CDs, etc.

Provides access through WLS for advanced search capabilities

A convenient resource for information at tax and election time in the town

Provides programs that supplement/complement school activities at the younger ages and activities/socialization for our senior citizens.

Personally, my wife and I have found the library very helpful for our gardening and D-I-Y projects this summer.

What is your vision for the future of Pound Ridge Library?

The Pound Ridge Library already functions as a vital, essential community resource. For the future:

Even more community “connectedness”- particularly with the businesses in Scotts Corners. Our local experts at Chubby’s, Booksy’s, and Bread/Bakes have expressed interest to me to collaborate with the library in the future

Reaching out to local and regional talent – The beautifully renovated Schaffner room showcases our local artists’ work. There are regional music and theater artists that could provide additional programming here

Reaching out to our schools - PRES/Fox Lane Middle School and High School – “Recycle With Riley” was a great start! There’s room for more interaction with the local schools. I see a gap in our connection to local teenagers that could be improved this year.