

Saugerties Public Library
Regular Board Meeting
Date: February 12, 2026

Present: Trustees Paul Van Benschoten, Timothy Scott, Erin Poll, Yosefa Karchmar, Charlotte Herscher, Alice Graves, Valentina Kielland, Rebecca Lang, Kerry McQuaide, Ken Goldberg

Excused: Teresa Giordano

Staff: Director Jennifer Russell

Public Attendees: Ray Rebholz, Bill Barr, Tim Goldberg

Meeting called to order at 5:58 PM by President Tim Scott

Public Comment:

Friends of Library: January meeting didn't happen due to weather. March 16 at 7:00 is the next meeting. Starting to get ready for the street fair, which is scheduled for May 30th.. They also just resigned the memorandum of understanding between the Friends of the Library and the Board.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

1. ***Town Tax Money Arrived:*** It arrived in February this year.
2. ***Library Advocacy Day Report:*** Tim went last Tuesday in Albany. Many groups were lobbying there. The Government has cut operating and construction aid. We were asking for 181.3 million dollars for operating. 175 million for construction. Legislative priorities: Freedom to Read Act passed and signed. It was signed and vetoed last year by the New York State School Board Association (NYSSBA). Rebecca Smith-Aldrich says they have finally come to the table and it has been worked out. Hopefully it will move forward. E-Books licensing fees: introduced in assembly and waiting for the senate. Civil Service Reform was discussed. Sarahanas' office occasionally holds office hours here to share resources and answer community member's questions. Tim has talked to Hinchey's office to see if she will come to talk and hold office hours here. MHLS and NYLA will most likely send out calls for action as we progress into the budget session.
3. ***Harassment Prevention Training:*** All board members and staff need to complete this each year. This does not contribute to the two Trustee Trainings that we need to do. Video and quiz are in the email. Once you are done, please send it to Tim. The links are in the February Board meeting email.

4. **Disaster Plan:** Policy committee started looking at this in August. The draft plan is included in the board packet. Jen looked over MHLS's ideas about disaster plans and updated our draft accordingly. Many items such as temporary locations, insurance information, who is in charge of what, in terms of positions, a map, and list of most important items, are included. There is also a list of what should be saved first, second, and a map of their locations. In terms of keeping personnel information, old files are not digitized. They have looked at the cost of storing that information elsewhere but no decision has been made. The plan is, if something happens, the personnel files would be a priority. There was a discussion of putting files in plastic bins for water damage prevention. The NYS archives are the first place to call in case of a disaster, as they have help in terms of funding. Another idea was to scan and digitize the documents and store them on a hard drive. There was conversation about sharing this plan and map with the local emergency services so they can help implement it in case of emergency.

Motion by Tim

Seconded by Paul

All in favor

Secretary's Report:

MOTION: Accept as is. Spelling of Van Benschoten to be corrected.

Motion by Tim and seconded by Charlotte to approve the minutes as written. All in favor.

Ken abstained.

Treasurer's Report:

MOTION: The total for the bills is increased due to January bills and first quarter or whole year bills. For example, MHLS first quarter bill and text support for the whole year. The Tax appropriation goes into the savings account and is transferred to pay monthly bills and payroll. The CD is coming up in March.

Motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$ 39,908.26 made by Charlotte and seconded by Tim.

All in favor.

Director's Report: Please see the report included in the Meeting Packet.

- 1) Carnegie Foundation funds: The library has received \$10,000 from the Carnegie Foundation in honor of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Working on a series of events starting this week with library love letters. Then we will have an "Celebrate Libraries" event in April. Katie Cokinos and the Saugerties Film Society will be doing films from 1976 to honor 1776, as well as three films that feature librarians. In April, we will host a local history program discussing the history of the Saugerties Library. We hope to have Rebekkah Smith Aldrich come to speak about the library system.
- 2) Lost Books: Staff called patrons who had books checked out past all renewals, and one patron brought back \$300.00 worth of books.
- 3) Books as Art: We have 9 artists. The opening will be on Friday, February 27th from 5-7 pm.
- 4) Annual Report: The deadline keeps getting pushed back and is now in March.

Ambassador's Report: N/A

Committee Reports

Finance: Nothing new to report.
Next meeting: March 16 at 6:00

Personnel/Policy: did not meet.
Next meeting: February 25th 6:15

Facilities: Met in January. Still trying to work with Richter's electric on repairing lights that don't work. Given up on replacing them at the moment. This conversation has been discussed by the finance committee. They would like to start looking into what is out there so we can plan financially.

Icicles coming up near the drop box. There has been working going on to prevent it but it is challenging. Other libraries have temporarily closed book drop when situations like this arise. That may be something to consider going forward.

Sandy thinks a steam cleaner would be beneficial for the upholstery. Yousefa bought one for the library.

Tim wanted to talk about the last snow clean up. Jen and Tim discussed parking lot-some spaces didn't get plowed out and that caused problems with cars being pushed into the road. Village DPW should be calling Tim back tomorrow to get something on paper about them plowing our parking lot. If the village won't plow, we will need to hire someone. Either way, the tax payer dollars are paying. It is possible there has been a chip to our new sidewalk due to the plow. Tim has taken some photos.

Next meeting: February 20th 6:00

Outreach:

Kerry brought boxes to decorate with hearts for the Love Your Library program. Each box will be put at a circulation desk for patrons to write a positive experience they have had at the library or why they love libraries. Kerry has also been working with staff in creating social media posts asking the public to comment on what they love about their library.

Next meeting: next meeting TBD

Motion to adjourn at 6:45 PM by Tim;

Seconded by Charlotte.

Passes unanimously.

Submitted by Rebecca Lang

Next meeting: March 12, 2026 at 5:30 social time and meeting starting at 6:00