

**Saugerties Public Library
Regular Board Meeting
Date: May 14, 2026**

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

Excused: Yosefa Karchmar

Staff: Director Jennifer Russell

Public Attendees: Bill Barr and Ray Rebholz

Meeting called to order at 6:02 PM by President Tim Scott

Public Comment: Bill Barr: A Town meeting had heated discussions regarding battery storage area. It is before the planning board. Greene County is looking to develop the Cement area. Saugerties is interested because of the proximity to the Vly area. 5/13: Ulster County Center for Well Being opened in Kingston. 5/21 BBQ at Cantine to support the splash pad. 5/23 is the opening day of the farmers market.

Friends of Library: Ray: Little free libraries to be installed after Memorial Day. Saugerties street fair is the 30th. Folks can sign up to volunteer. The next meeting is the 18th at 7:00.

Unfinished Business: none

New Business:

1: Trustee Training: (June 1, 2, 4 or June 8/9 evening at 6:30): There are a variety to choose from. We are going to meet on the 9th at 6:15. Jen will send out an email so we can pick the training that we are going to do.

2: Hope Rocks: Back in Saugerties this year August 15th and 16th. We were given an application to see if we want to be involved again. The outreach committee needs to look into this to see if we should participate. Jen recommends that we only go one day. The committee will take it from here.

Secretary's Report:

MOTION: to approve

Motion by Tim and seconded by Charlotte to approve the minutes with Bill Barr's name edited for correct spelling. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report:

MOTION: We made a motion to pay bills once treasure has signed them as they are not in yet. The total for the bills is \$22, 466.31 .Motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$ 22,466.31 when they are signed was made by Charlotte and seconded by Tim. All in favor.

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

- 1) Wonderful celebrate libraries events
- 2) Justyna resigned-interviews have started to fill this position. Two candidates have applied and references are being called. They would like to have someone hired soon.
- 3) Explanation about air quality monitoring
- 4) Tiffany spoke at two events in April
- 5) The bike borrowing program won't go forward because the insurance won't cover us
- 6) Archtop fiber conversion is coming up for the internet. We would like to convert the phones as well. We are waiting for an estimate.
- 7) Big push for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library to be covered by the Legislator for all of Ulster County.

Ambassadors report: Teresa: April 17th was a sold out event. There was a full house. Rebecca spoke about how the mid-hudson system came to be and the challenges that libraries are facing. Some suggestions were made about how to spread the word looking for more advocates. Questions arose from the speech, especially regarding ebook hold expenses. We will try to start spreading the word about that sooner rather than later. It was good to see that information was spread.

Committee Reports:

Finance: see minutes attached

Next year's budget was thoroughly gone through. More discussion needs to be had regarding salaries. Charlotte signed paperwork to renew the smaller CD. Starting to finalize the budget at the next meeting. Jen mentioned getting a music collection and they have discussed collaboration with Woodstock Library to purchase the Biblioboard program.

Next meeting: May 18th at 6:00

Personnel/Policy: See minutes attached

1) Pandemic Policy review cycle was changed to five years

2) Library bill of rights had a few changes - see Policy & Personnel minutes.

Motion: Tim made a motion to change those policies and Alice seconded.. All in favor.

We are looking into workshops for sustainability before we make additions to the environmental policy.

There was a discussion about the elections and if someone could go off of the board for three years, return and then serve in an executive position. As it stands you cannot be an officer upon return. However, we've discussed allowing the trustee to come back as if they are a brand new trustee where they will wait a year, and then potentially be an officer.

The committee will come up with verbiage and put it to the board for a vote after our next meeting.

For the employee who is interested in moving to regular- time: Jen will look into the number that would be paid for PTO.

Next meeting: May 27th at 6:15pm.

Facilities:

Did not meet in April.

Next meeting: May 19th at 6:00 pm

Outreach: See minutes attached.

They reviewed the April events. Everything went well.

They talked about tabling at the farmer's market. Debating if that is the best place for outreach.

There will be a Celebrate Libraries event on June 10th in the Community Room where someone from the state will talk about the development of public libraries in NY.

Also, they are looking at a possible fall gathering to get volunteer agencies to the Community Room, from Saugerties, to mingle and discuss with each other and the public about the resources available in the area.

HV bringing agencies together-Ruth Hirsch. They are also doing something like this so that would be a good resource.

Next meeting: June 22nd at 5:30

Next meeting for the Board: June 11th at 6:00

Motion to adjourn at 6:59 PM by Tim;

Seconded by Charlotte.

Passes unanimously.

Submitted by Rebecca Lang

Next meeting: at 5:30 with meeting starting at 6:00