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

Present: Trustees Timothy Scott, Rebecca Lang, Kerry McQuaide, Ken Goldberg, Teresa Giordano, Paul Van Benschoten, Yosefa Karchmar, Ed Gerrard, Erin Poll

Absent: Alice Graves, Valentina Kielland
Staff:Liz Mendoza -Interim Library Director

Public Attendees: Bill Barr (Town Board Liaison), Ray Rebholz (Friends of the Library Liaison)

Meeting called to order at 6:03 PM by President Tim Scott

Public Comment:
Bill Barr: There is a group that is working on a drinking water source protection plan looking at contaminants to drinking water supply and preventative measures. They have a meeting coming up.
-The town budget is due to the county by the 20th.
-There was a touch a truck event during Halloween. It was going to provide funds for the splash pad but that got fully funded by a grant from the state, so the money went to the SAS.
- The planning board is meeting about the battery factory next week.
-Winston farm: the owners have submitted their version of an environmental impact statement. The town board is looking at their input before they decide how much they want to add to their FEIS.
-The tax code for the state has been rewritten to allow disabled veterans to qualify for property tax exemption.

Friends of Library:
Ray Rebholz: They had their wine and cheese social. Eddie Moran came to speak about Ulster County history. December 6th is the festival of trees from 12-4. They are anticipating about two dozen trees. The next meeting is on January 25th.

Old Business:
None

New Business:

1. Festival of Trees: It has been mentioned over the years that maybe the board could do a tree. Teresa is willing to spearhead this. She was thinking of doing something with a banned book theme. Please share ideas and get involved. Folks would need to chip in a bit but there are some trees upstairs that could be used.

Secretary's Report:
MOTION: **to adopt as written**
Motion by Tim and seconded by Paul to approve the minutes. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report:
MOTION:
Motion to pay the bills in the amount of $ 72,516.32 was made by Ken and seconded by Rebecca.
All in favor.

Interim Director's Report: Please see the report included in the Meeting Packet.
Technology: Liz is working with Gerry Formby at MHLS to resolve our Wi-Fi issues. We have begun the first step of having our Wireless Network Access Points tested at Mid-Hudson to rule out hardware issues. The next step will be testing the network on site to rule out wiring problems. The public will be notified of an internet outage when that testing is scheduled. If it's neither wiring nor device, we may need to purchase new devices.
Facilities: Ancient Gardens visited and cut back our garden beds for the fall and winter season.
Personnel: Our Director Search continues. Job listings have been renewed.
Training: The library was offered access to a free Ryan Dowd De-escalation webinar. 10 of our staff attended and have received participation certificates.
The Great Give Back: The Giveback ended on October 17th. Dutchess County won, but by a much smaller margin than originally anticipated. The final tally was 7414 to 6954. Saugerties collected 212 items that were donated to the St. John's Food Pantry.

Ambassadors report:
Teresa: They went to the MHLS breakfast and meeting. The library system is still asking people to advocate for 188 million to go to the state to make up for cuts that have been going on for decades. The libraries need money. You can call the governor asking for this.

Committee Reports:

Finance:
Didn't meet this month
Next meeting: Nov 16th at 6:00pm

Personnel/Policy:
Didn't meet this month
Next meeting: TBD for December

Facilities: Please see attached minutes
-The flat roof over the staff office area needs to be checked to verify that the repairs were made.
• Our gardener has done some clean up and weeding.
• Ballasts/batteries have been ordered for the Emergency lights.
• The director will investigate a new contract with Emtec for our heating and air conditioning

Next meeting: TBD

Outreach:

-Black History Month (February) Screenings:Maybe a mini film festival. We could screen Mr. Soul! (Ed Gerrard Music Supervisor) and Peter Bradley.
Look into copyrights of both films and the possibility of Mr. Soul! director to speak with Ed at Screening.
-Ed is working with a director about a film about Harry Belafonte. The director is willing to come up to talk and show the film. There could be a possibility of using Upstate theater to screen these.
-The question is who can spearhead a program. Can the board do that or is it up to the staff.
-They are looking for some posters that we can hang with information as to where people can go for assistance in the area.
-Ed looked into Biblioboard and copyright issues.
-It may be a good idea to have a presentation about Biblioboard. The Saugerties Arts Commission may be interested in doing a workshop with this.
Next meeting: 11/23 at 5:30pm

Search Committee
10/28 went into executive session

Moving to executive session at 6:37
Motion to exit session made by Tim at 7:15 and seconded by Kerry
All in favor

Next meeting for the Board: Next meeting: December 10, 2026 at 6:00 pm
Motion to adjourn by Tim at 7:16 PM
Seconded by Ken
Passes unanimously.
Submitted by Rebecca Lang