

Saugerties Public Library
Regular Board Meeting
Date: April 10, 2025

Present: Trustees Yosefa Karchmar, Charlotte Herscher, Paul Vanbenschoten, Timothy Scott, Julie Misiano, Robert Irizarry, Ken Goldberg, Erin Poll, Rebecca Lang, Teresa Giordano

Excused: Nina Schmidbaur

Staff: Director Jennifer Russell

Public Attendees: Ray Rebholz

Meeting called to order at 6:04 PM by President Tim Scott

Public Comment:
N/A

Friends of Library:

Friends Co-President Rebholz says that the Friends are continuing to plan for the street fair. The tent is ordered, and they have a few more plans in the works. There will be an upcoming "folding party" to prepare mailers for the annual newsletter and membership drive. April 21st at 7pm at the library. The street fair will be May 31st.

Unfinished Business:

- Sexual Harassment Training: please complete the required training
- Motion made by Tim Scott seconded by Erin Poll to discuss how the cuts to the Federal Library System and the bylaws regarding Trustees' communication when speaking to the public, with public figures or the press.
 - The Mid-Hudson System itself is largely funded through NYS from the Federal government. This is different from individual libraries, which are typically funded through local taxpayers. Another factor might be libraries in the middle of construction or in need of construction/renovations may lose funding. This funding loss may also reduce the staffing at the State Library, especially those responsible for funneling the money from the Federal government to the library systems. There are active lawsuits to try to stop these cuts, including whether the Federal Government has the right to determine how many staffers each facility/program/department "should" have. SPL only gets an "e-rate" discount for internet services directly from the Federal government, and we only have one year left on that contract.
 - We clarified how we identify our status as a trustee. The understanding is that we may say that we are on the board, but further clarify that we are speaking as an individual and not speaking for the board, unless the board has made a unified decision about a particular matter.

New Business:

1. The Director learned just prior to this meeting, that one of our clerks has decided to resign. There is a current substitute clerk who may be interested in the position, and the Director would like to offer them the position. Ken Goldberg made a motion, seconded by Julie Misiano, to permit the Director to hire the staff she chooses, with commensurate salary for the position.

Secretary's Report:

Motion by Tim Scott and *Second* by Teresa Giordano to approve the minutes as written.

Motion passes unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$ 20,150.92 made by Charlotte Herscher seconded by Tim Scott Passes unanimously.

The Treasurer and the President went to the bank to renew the CD for 3.65%, after transferring the accrued interest into the regular savings account.

They also opened a new 6 month CD at 3.8% with \$71,000, of the bequest from the Ricks family.

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

- The programs that were part of an MHLS grant were presented by Albert Cook and the topic was the history of race in America. The programs were well attended with attentive patrons. Ulster County Office for Human Rights also provided brochures for patrons to know their rights and how to seek help if needed.
- Sloatsburg Historical Site hosted a program on Gilded Age scandals that was well attended and also increased the use of museum passes to the site.
- Issue with the internet speeds has not yet been resolved but the Director is working on it.
- The online newspaper portal is up and running.
- Our new Children's Programmer has been active in developing programs and reaching out to the community.

Committee Reports:

Finance: met on 3/17/25

- ❖ Talked about how to portion the funds received from a recent bequeathment
- ❖ Worked on next year's budget

see minutes FMI Next meeting: 4/21/25 at 6PM

Personnel/Policy: did not meet

- The changes to the Donation/Gift policy discussed last month have been made and are available for review.

- The edits made to the new Parking Lot policy have been made and are available for review

Motion to open discussion of the donation/gift policy made by Tim Scott, seconded by Erin Poll. Passes unanimously The edits were highlighted in yellow.

- Motion to approve the Donation/Gift policy with the edits discussed tonight made by Tim Scott, seconded by Paul Vanbenschoten. Passes unanimously.

Motion to open the discussion of the parking lot policy made by Erin Poll, seconded by Tim Scott. Passes unanimously.

- Motion to approve the Parking Lot policy as amended made by Tim Scott, seconded by Teresa Giordano. Passes unanimously.

Next meeting: May 21, 2025 at 6PM

Facilities: met on March 18, 2025

1. Waiting for the sidewalk repair to commence. Decided where to move the stone that will be removed, that can be used elsewhere.
2. Continued work on building maintenance.
3. Seeking new internet providers once our Spectrum contract ends.
4. Have been in contact with Door Solutions to complete repairs on the main doors.

see minutes FMI Next meeting: April 15, 2025 at 6 PM

Outreach: met on March 24, 2025

- Sought additional support for patrons who need internet assistance with regards to the social security system . Have learned of two volunteers able to facilitate this increased need.
- Compiled a list of local talent, to participate in an October event.
- Will begin a "Reading to Adults" program at local senior homes, beginning with the Memory Care Unit at the Ivy Lodge.

see minutes FMI Next meeting: April 28, 2025 at 5:30 PM

Friends Liaison:

The Director attended the most recent Friends' meeting.

Motion to adjourn at 7:19 PM by Tim Scott ;
Seconded by Julie Misiano

Passes unanimously.

Submitted by Julie Misiano

Next meeting: May 8, 2025 at 6PM