Saugerties Public Library Board Agenda
October 8, 2026
5:30 pm Social Time and 6pm Meeting

Roll Call

Public Comment

Signing Oath of Office, Conflict of Interest, Ethics Statement Forms

Old Business:

1. Budget and Election Results
2. Goodbye to outgoing Trustee

New Business:

1. Nominating Committee
2. Search Committee
3. Banned Books Week (October 4 - 10, 2026)
4. National Friends of Libraries Week (October 18 - 24, 2026)

Secretary's Report
Treasurer's Report
Pay Bills

Interim Director's Report:

Ambassador's Report:

Committee Reports:

1. Finance
2. Personnel/Policy
3. Facilities
4. Outreach

Next meeting - November 12, 2026

Saugerties Public Library
Regular Board Meeting
Date: September 10, 2026

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

Absent: Yosefa Karchmar
Staff: Director Jennifer Russell, Liz Mendoza -Library Assistant

Public Attendees: Bill Barr (Town Board Liaison), Ray Rebholz, Ed Himberger

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM by President Tim Scott

Public Comment:
Ed Himberger-running for the SPL board. Gave a brief synopsis of his work and use of libraries. Professionally known as Ed Gerard.
Bill Barr- Tomorrow there will be a ceremony for 9/11 at 6:00. 9/14 Melissa Everett will be hosting an event at the Local regarding the electrical grid. Solar up now NY: passed in senate and assembly in NY. Plug in solar. Saugerties is hoping to join a stakeholders group to work on this. River keepers are writing a letter to DEC to work on leaching from landfills into the river. 10/16 Chamber of commerce is having the barking around Saugerties Auction.

Friends of Library: Ray Rebholz**:** 9/21 at 7:00pm is the next meeting. 11/4th is wine and cheese at total tennis. There will be no murder mystery. Ed Moran will be talking about the revolution in Saugerties. The friends will miss Jen. Thank you for your service.
Old Business:

New Business: none
1. Introducing Liz Mendoza: Temporary director position. She worked in TX at a variety of libraries. She was hired here in May. She enjoys working in the many aspects of the library.
2. Nominating Committee: Alice and Yosefa. The vote is next Tuesday. The annual meeting is in October. The new folks join and people leave if they are departing. We need to sign all of the paperwork. That is when we vote for the executive committee and the chair assignments. We will most likely vote via paper.
3. Advertising for Director position: Ads have been put on various sites including the MHLS bulletin, which needs to be placed weekly. Placed on Reforma for 30 days. We've placed it on the Black librarians caucus and NiLine.
4. Director's search: There have been several folks that responded. The Personnel committee, Tiffany, and Ken are going through them. We looked at five resumes. Two are not qualified. We received another one today from a highly qualified candidate. Jen's last day is tomorrow and Liz will step in. The search committee will meet as needed. We will keep the board informed as things progress as necessary and appropriate. Ken has clarified that the Director 1 position is a civil service position. If there are 3 individuals on the list, you must pick one of them unless you

have an applicant in your community. There is no one on the list so we are free to look for and hire whoever we want as long as they meet civil service requirements. Before we tell the person we like, we should send it to the civil service to make sure we are satisfying their requirements. We want to select someone who can meet our needs and has the background to do that.

Erin wants to know what the board is looking for in a director. Kerry says competence. She wants the director to have strong expertise in how libraries run. It was mentioned that programs and such isn't really the area that we need to look at as the director delegates that. The director should know the legalities and the MHLS. Some feel the search committee is in charge of this, others feel like the interview is the way to really determine who the best choice is. Tim recommends if anyone has a topic that they think is important to consider in regards to the search, they should pass it along to the committee. In regards to having an employee on the committee, it is important. Alice is willing to join the committee. Jen recommends asking people how they'd deal with specific situations to see how they would handle it. The board is the final decision making body. It is recommended a slow to hire, fast to fire approach. Use a probationary period.

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

Treasurer's Report:
MOTION: Bill was pretty standard. Motion to pay the bills in the amount of $20,784.54 was made by Charlotte and seconded by Kerry.
All in favor.

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

Programs: The Summer Reading Program continued with an Adult US History trivia contest (for the 250th) and two Dinosaur programs with large interactive fossil displays.

The Great Give Back: This is an opportunity for volunteers. In honor of the 250th, all of the Ulster and Dutchess county libraries will be participating in a Food Fight. From September 2nd to October 17th, we will be accepting non-perishable food donations. Along with all of the other libraries, we will tally up how many items we receive and compare our numbers with the Dutchess County libraries.

Tim mentioned that the gardens are looking great.

Ambassadors report:

Teresa: She was on a zoom regarding how libraries could use AI. She will share the link when she gets the link to the talk. She was also hoping we'd talk up the food fight. The community fridge can use some help as well. Tim wanted to add that he attended a meeting of a group of

folks who work in bookstores and libraries. They have some contacts in the authors against book bans group. The Governor needs to hear from “upstate” folks to apply pressure to pass The Freedom to Read Act. Kerry will check to see if there is a “one-click” email you can use to apply pressure. Teresa recommends seeing the documentary on book bans. Ed asked if Michelle Hinchey has been contacted about any of this.

Committee Reports:

Finance: See minutes attached.
They did not meet in August.

Next meeting: Sept 21st at 6:00

Personnel/Policy: See minutes attached.
Met on August 26th.

Policy:
-Updated community room form with clear guidelines.
-The Computer Use Policy and FOIL is a work in progress. There is contention about patron records not being foiled. Certain libraries in the area have used that interpretation to include video of patrons being in the library because that would be part of their record. People can keep their own records on the catalog of what they take out. There are also questions about paying for records as they need to be found and copied. The IRS asks if you are filing the request, how much are you willing to spend to get the information. If it exceeds your willingness to pay, do you still want to do so? There are some guides we can look at to help us solidify this. The committee is still working on this as it has lots of legalese.

Personnel:
We switched life insurance from MetLife to Hartford.

Next meeting: September 23rd at 6:15

Facilities: see minutes attached.
Met on August 18th.
Lights need some replacements.
Wifi still seems slow despite the change.
The back roof over the stairway is leaking. We’ve received an estimate from Superior Roof.
Paul met with Brigid regarding the front steps. She is working on some estimates because there are gaps and cracks.

Next meeting: September 15th at 6:00. This will need to be rescheduled due to the vote so TBD.

Outreach:

Met on August 24th.
Made an effort to work on bibloboard project. They are looking to highlight local musicians. This is an exciting opportunity for self-published writers. They wanted the gathering of aid agencies, they are going to make a poster at this time.

Next meeting: Sept 28th at 5:30

A motion to go into executive session to discuss a personnel issue at 7:12 was made by Tim and seconded by Paul. Exit session at 7:33 and seconded by Alice. All in favor.

Next meeting for the Board: Next meeting: October 8th, 2026
Bring food to share.
Motion to adjourn by Tim at 7:35 PM
Seconded by Alice
Passes unanimously.
Submitted by Rebecca Lang

Recreation for the Mind: discover, connect, grow.
SAUGERTIES PUBLIC LIBRARY
91 Washington Avenue, Saugerties, NY 12477 Ph.: 845-246-4317 Fax: 845-246-0858
www.saugertiespubliclibrary.org

September Director's Report 2026

Technology: Liz M. worked remotely with Comprise to update the SAM server on our public computers and get them communicating with the print station again. Work is scheduled for work station 1 which has been giving us trouble.

Facilities: Liz M. has reached out to Rachel of Ancient Gardens to set a date to close down our gardens for the Winter.

Collection: Our Clerks Jane and Marie worked together on a major shelf shifting project, relocating the non-fiction DVDs and making more room for the growing fiction DVD collection.

We have received a mini grant from the Library of Local to be used in the purchase of disaster response items for our Library of Things.

Personnel: Our Director Search continues. The Black Caucus Job listing has been renewed for another 30 days. We have also posted the position on the NYLA job board.

Programs:

Adults:

We have added a weekly Yoga class to our list of offerings. This class is being hosted at no cost to us by Donathan Dedolph, who is working toward his Yoga Instructor Certification.

There were both an Author talk about Relationship Conflicts and a workshop on learning the skills to disagree better.

Children:

The library hosted a virtual author talk with Grammy award-winning musician Lucky Diaz, author of Paletero Man. This program was available in both Spanish and English.

The Great Give Back: The Giveback continues through October 17th. We are trailing Dutchess County by a pretty wide margin. Saugerties is one of only a few Ulster County libraries that have reported any donations.

Meetings:
UCLA –Remote meeting on September 15th
MHLS annual Meeting October 23rd--Registration Deadline Oct 16th

Saugerties Public Library
@Finance Committee

Date: 9/21/2026
Time: 6:00 p.m.

Committee Members Attending:
Charlotte Herscher
Ken Goldberg
Paul Van Benschoten
Tim Scott

Staff Attending:
Liz Mendoza

Discussion/Agenda Items:

- We discussed the transition to a new Treasurer and President, and did an overview of our accounts and the processes.
- Our six month bond is maturing on 10/9/2026, the day after our next meeting. The new Treasurer and President will have to decide what to do with that right away. Charlotte will email Shane to ask about new rates and cc Tim, Ken and Paul.
- Ken has been looking into construction grants with MHLS. There is more money available this year and fewer libraries applied. It is an unusual opportunity to get extra funding, which could potentially go to upgrade our elevator.
- Tech support. This is an ongoing discussion since MHLS is raising their rates. Computer Guys is significantly more expensive, and it seems to make more sense to stay with MHLS for the immediate future. Ken to find out when the new MHLS contract will be due.
- Lighting. We need to spend about $1,500 on lighting. We still have money left in the Equipment R&M and Building R&M budget lines so Paul will go ahead and order the lighting.

Corresponding Recommendation, Action Items (motions), or No Further Action:

Next meeting:

To be determined by the new finance committee and treasurer