

**Saugerties Public Library
Regular Board Meeting
Date: August 13, 2026**

Present: Trustees Timothy Scott, Charlotte Herscher, Yosefa Karchmar, Valentina Kielland, Rebecca Lang, Kerry McQuaide, Ken Goldberg, Alice Graves, Teresa Giordano

Absent: Erin Poll, Paul Van Benschoten

Staff: Director Jennifer Russell

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

Meeting called to order at 6:07 PM by President Tim Scott

Public Comment: Bill Barr will bring our proposed budget to the town supervisor. Key Capture Energy made a presentation regarding battery storage. The town has authorized the planning board to hire a consultant to review the battery storage safety standards and procedures. On 9/2 and 10/7, the board will have hearings on zoning change for indoor agriculture. The climate change summit has a survey that will go directly to the Cornell cooperative extension. The village trustees approved a resolution asking the town to have a moratorium on the battery storage system.

Friends of Library: Ray Rebholz: impressed with numbers on budget. Friends comes back on 9/21 at 7:00pm. They have 12 new memberships garnered from the Annual Report to the Community mailer. Paul and Jen have been working on the tables that the friends provided. This is still a work in progress. The little free library upgrades continue. They are looking forward to a great season.

Old Business: None

New Business:

1. **New Vote Date:** The date is September 15th from 10-8. There is a new flyer that each board member has been asked to post.

Secretary's Report:

MOTION: to approve

Motion by Tim and seconded by Ken to approve the minutes. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report: one bill: there was a \$2,800 bill for electrical work for replacing emergency lights. We had a \$3,500 for Biblioboard subscription. That was paid for by Kiwanis club and Steinhorn funds.

MOTION: Motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$29,890.82 was made by Charlotte and seconded by Tim.

All in favor.

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

- 1) Board Election: There are two open seats for the board, and we have two Saugerties residents who have completed the petition and will be on the ballot for the September 15th election. They are returning board member Paul Van Benschoten and community member Ed Himberger.
- 2) Summer Reading Program: Both children and teens have participated in the SRP diorama contest this year. Each participating patron took home a small toy and built a diorama around it. Children took a crocodile and teens took a dinosaur skeleton. Anyone can vote for their favorite, so please take a moment to look them over and vote. Jen recommends we check them out and vote on them!
- 3) Local Artist: Suzanne Bennet has been in contact with Jen about a grant from the New York State African American Heritage Grant Program that she and others are writing. They are hoping to fund the creation of a bust of local artist, Augusta Savage that would be on display at the library. Jen said that the policy on donations of art to the library includes the fact that there may come a day where the artwork goes away due to renovations or some unforeseen issue..
- 4) Discussion regarding AI policy: Jen took a webinar about this. There are thoughts about potentially installing "Duck AI" as it is safer. There is also the question about accepting AI art in the gallery.

Ambassadors report: Teresa: there are a series of AI webinars from the MHLS. There is one on 9/2 from 10-11. Teresa can share the information about how to sign up. The Ulster County Library Association Dinner was announced. We have two members going, Kerry and Alice.

Committee Reports:

Finance:

Did not meet

Next meeting: August 17th at 6:00

Personnel/Policy: See minutes attached.

Met on 7/22.

- 1) Law enforcement policy. We heard from the lawyer. The only thing we had to do was change the date regarding the legal counsel.
Motion: Tim makes a motion to adopt as amended. Yosefa seconded. All in favor.
- 2) Community room usage: The lawyer said political meetings have to be open to the public and the lawyer talked about religious use and we are still waiting to hear back regarding that.
- 3) AI: no policy yet. There was discussion about personal information being stored.

- 4) We are doing an ongoing Personnel policy review. We are striking anything that is not gender neutral. We looked at ways to have more inclusive staff hiring. We still have more to look into.

Next meeting: August 26th at 6:15

Facilities: see minutes attached.

- 1) Looking for original floor tile to use as a reference to fix other broken pieces.
- 2) Archtop fiber switch. Things are still slow. This process involved MHLS and is ongoing. We may need to hire Archtop or the Computer Guys to tackle the issues we are having. MHLS says the switch we purchased is fighting with the brand of wireless extenders.
- 3) Bluestone steps: need to start working on that
- 4) Discussed building maintenance issues coming up for the next year.

Next meeting: August 18th at 6:00

Outreach: See minutes attached.

- 1) They did some research into musicians putting their music on biblioboard. They seemed happy about the idea. It would be original music. The library has subscribed and is in the process of setting up the account and setting up an easy way to explain this to the public. This would be good for music and writers.
- 2) Still discussing a local Aid Agency event at the library in the fall. We need a way to appeal to those who need services and those who could volunteer.

Next meeting: August 24th at 5:30

Next meeting for the Board: Next meeting: September 10, 2026

Motion to adjourn by Tim at 6: 51 PM

Seconded by Charlotte

Passes unanimously.

Submitted by Rebecca Lang