



**Board of Directors
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 10, 2026**

Officers Present: President Dave Hempson, Treasurer Maura Molnar, Secretary Kathryn Carlson, At-large Member Kristin LaBeau

Trustees: Connie Bohrer, Bill Conole, Ralph DeMasi, Anne McCarthy, Larry Palmieri, Cristina Pietropaoli, Amy Rolleri, Paul Torrisi, Jr.

Staff: Library Executive Director Andea Snyder, Assistant Director and Librarian for Children & Teens, Mary Beth Schwarltzwalder

Absent: Vice President Katie Armijo, Jennifer Feeney, Susanne Guske, Meghann Sandak

Members of the Public: none

Call to order at 6:30pm

Approval of the Minutes – Minutes from the February 10, 2026 regular board meeting were approved.

President's Report

President Hempson reported that the strategic plan committee finalized the draft mission, vision and values statements. He distributed copies for the trustees to review and give input at the next meeting. The committee is working on strategies and tactics.

He then asked the trustees to consider the request from the director of the Barrow Art Gallery to invest \$25K of allotted funds for a consultant to lead the future Barrow Board in strategic planning. Treasurer Molnar made a motion to approve the expenditure and Trustee Conole seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Finance Committee Report

Treasurer Molnar explained to the trustees the recommendations that have been made by the finance committee for the bonding process that will finance the remainder of the costs for the new building. The recommendation is to pursue a 25-year bond. Treasurer Molnar reviewed the sources and uses of the money involved in the capital project. The calculations indicate that the total cost of the project will be \$16.2M with the building itself costing \$15.7. The amount for the bond will be \$8.5M. This will result an average repayment amount of \$537K a year. For a \$1M home, this is \$131.88 per year. These figures have taken a variety of variables into account.

The proposed tax levy is a combination of the current levy of \$438K, the \$25K increase in operating funding, and the \$537K for the yearly bond repayment. This figure is \$991,294. expense

A motion was made by Treasurer Molnar and seconded by Trustee Palmieri to approve the following proposition for the May 19 school district ballot:

“Shall the sum to be raised by the annual levy of a tax on taxable real property within the Skaneateles School District for the purpose of funding the Skaneateles Library association be \$991,294”

The motion was approved unanimously. The total cost per year on a \$1M home will be \$243.11. Trustee Torrisi remarked that 30% of the cost had already been raised by public donations, with over 650 individual donors, and that this was remarkable support.

In a separate matter, Treasurer Molnar explained that this year's scheduled withdrawal from investments for operating expenses is \$106K, as calculated by the finance committee. The library does not use all this money and over the years a sum of \$506K in operational reserves has accumulated. The finance committee recommends that \$100K from this year's withdrawal be put toward the capital project. Trustee Palmieri made a motion to do this and Secretary Carlson seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Treasurer Molnar additionally reported that the monthly financials were in line with the budget and there were no issues.

The trustees gave Treasurer Molnar a round of applause for her excellent work.

Director's Report

Executive Director Snyder reported that interviews for the Adult Services Librarian position have been going well and that she hopes to have more info to share soon

The Chamber of Commerce held an after-hours gathering at the library last month with 50 business representatives present. Executive Director Snyder took the opportunity to display the latest project renderings and answer questions.

Two weeks ago, the library hosted Ben Walsh who represented Governor Hochul in celebrating the \$1.1M award to the project.

On April 11, the monthly Guitar Series will feature Eliot Fisk at the Presbyterian Church at 7:30pm. There is a suggested donation of \$20.

Communication Committee

Chairperson LeBeau reported that the committee has been working with Riveter Design on strategies for getting out the vote and presenting a consistent message. The company is also developing flyers and stack cards. There will be a training tomorrow March 11 at 6:00pm at the library or through Zoom for board members, staff, and committee members.

Fundraising Committee

In Capital Campaign Director McCormack's absence, President Hempson reported that fundraising is doing well and has raised \$7,270,406.05 or 46% of the project cost. There have been 660 individual donors. There are a variety of events planned: April 18 at 75 Fennell Street, future home of the new library; March 22 at a host family's home; and May 2 at an author reception at the Brewery. President Hempson has been in continual contact with the Emerson, Reisman and Allyn Foundations, trying to get donations.

He suggests we create a permanent development committee for ongoing fundraising. He suggests that the current Capital Campaign Director, Erin McCormack come back onto the board to run it as its unpaid chairperson. Any future grant money or other funding could be used to add back in projects that were taken out through the value-engineering process. He received a round of applause for his patience and tenacity.

Fennell Street New Building Committee

President Hempson reported that the building cost will be \$15.7. He has been communicating with the Village Board and the Planning and Zoning boards about the next steps toward a building permit. An asbestos survey is necessary, as is an updated SEQR report. He has contacted an asbestos company at about \$2200, and the original engineering firm, Plumley, for the updated SEQR at \$3500. These will be done shortly.

An ideal timeline would be to get the approvals in April, pass the tax levy in May, have the book sale in late May/early June, take down the existing buildings in late June and start the project in August. It should take 15 months to complete.

Barrow Art Gallery (BAG) Update

Trustee Rolleri reported that 30 more of the museum quality identification plaques for the Barrow paintings have been installed and 37 more are ready to be installed. The money that the board authorized for investments last month has been duly invested.

Friends of the Library

Committee co-chairperson Trustee Pietropaoli reported over 50 new Friends were added in February, for a gain of \$1600. She passed out a card to be given to new Friend candidates with the QR code for joining on the front, and FAQs on the back.

Public Comment Period – none

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2026 at 6:30 pm at the Library.