

**Board of Directors
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 14, 2026**

Officers Present: President Dave Hempson, Vice President Katie Armijo, Treasurer Maura Molnar, Kristin LaBeau (At-Large Member of Exec)

Trustees: Connie Bohrer, Bill Conole, Susanne Guske, Anne McCarthy, Larry Palmieri, Cristina Pietropaoli, Amy Rolleri, Meghann Sandak, Paul Torrisi, Jr.

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

Absent: Secretary Kathryn Carlson, Ralph DeMasi, Jennifer Feeney

Members of the Public: Capital Campaign Director Erin McCormack

Call to order at 6:45pm

Public Comment Period – no comments

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

President's Report

President Hempson reported that there are 34 days remaining until the vote on May 19th. He noted that with 16 trustees, if each reached out to one person per day between now and the vote, the board could generate 578 votes.

President Hempson recognized Trustee Larry Palmieri for going above and beyond to drive support for the tax levy proposition, and expressed appreciation on behalf of the full board.

He reminded trustees and community members that absentee ballots are available by contacting the school district. He also noted that New York State residents whose primary residence is in the Skaneateles School District are eligible to vote, even if they are temporarily elsewhere.

President Hempson reported on the status of the Library's separation from the Barrow Gallery. The separation process has now cleared two of three required approvals: the Department of Education and the Attorney General have both approved the petition. The matter now rests with a judge for final determination. A decision is expected within the next month. This represents the culmination of approximately five years of work, beginning as a goal in the 2020 strategic plan.

President Hempson asked for a motion to form a Development Committee to begin work in June, following the May 19th vote, to support ongoing fundraising beyond the capital campaign. A motion was made by Trustee Larry Palmieri and seconded by Trustee Susanne Guske. The motion passed.

Fund-Raising Committee

Capital Campaign Director McCormack reported that fundraising momentum is strong following the recent public information night, which generated approximately six potential gifts currently in follow-up. The presentation was very well received, and it has been a busy week for the campaign in terms of incoming calls and interest.

An open house at the new Fennell Street site is scheduled for April 18th. Trustee presence is encouraged, as having familiar faces available for personal conversations with visitors has proven effective at past events.

Capital Campaign Director McCormack emphasized that continued fundraising is critical. Any gifts received beyond the bond amount will either allow the board to apply for a lower bond, or to reduce debt service payments in future years. She noted that the announcement of the tax levy has made the project feel tangible to the community and has unlocked new donor engagement, with more calls received this week than at any prior point in the campaign.

Finance Committee Report

Treasurer Molnar reported that the library is in strong financial shape. Operating accounts hold \$465,000 and capital campaign accounts hold \$2.2 million, including the receipt of our million dollar gift.

On the income statement, all figures are in line with expectations at six months into the fiscal year. Investment accounts are slightly down this month due to market conditions, but are expected to recover.

From the expense side, nothing is materially out of line. Salary expenses will come in slightly under budget this year due to a vacancy in the third librarian position for several months.

On the Fennell Street project, it was a strong month for capital cash in. Total funds received for the project before the library's contribution stand at \$3,586,358. Monthly project expenses were \$88,000, primarily architect's fees. Total project expenses to date are \$1,617,153.

Treasurer Molnar distributed and reviewed a fact sheet on the Library Tax Levy, which is also available on the library's website. The fact sheet includes the exact ballot proposition language, a breakdown of the \$991,294 levy between operating support and bond debt service, the impact on individual households, and a comparison of library tax rates among area.

Director's Report

Executive Director Snyder referred trustees to her report sent electronically in advance of the meeting.

New adult services librarian Hannah Gingrich will join the staff on May 1st. Hannah brings strong customer service skills and significant programming experience. Adult programming, which has been scaled back during the staff vacancy, is expected to increase with her arrival.

The 15th annual LEGO contest took place in March, with over 100 people attending the celebration.

The library contributed book prizes to the Skaneateles Chamber of Commerce annual Easter egg hunt, which was well received by parents.

The most recent guitar concert series event featuring Elliot Fisk drew 117 attendees.

Assistant Director Schwartzwalder conducted a Storytime offsite at the Skaneateles Fire Department, attended by 113 children and adults.

On April 28th, Assistant Director Schwartzwalder will be speaking at the Trustee Advisory Council meeting at the East Syracuse Library.

Communications Committee

Trustee LaBeau highlighted the availability of a communications toolkit developed for the tax levy campaign, which includes talking points tailored for specific audiences as well as text and email templates. She then shared the direct outreach plan leading up to the May 19 vote.

A Letter to the Editor will be submitted to The Skaneateles Press, signed by all trustees. A direct mailing will also go to donors specifically, bearing all trustee signatures.

Barrow Art Gallery (BAG) Update

Trustee Rolleri reminded the board that on May 28th there will be a Barrow Gallery event at \$50 per person, with attendees also making a contribution toward the restoration of a painting.

Fennell Street New Building Committee

President Hempson reported that the library recently appeared before the Village Planning Board with Chris from Oudens Ello to present the building renderings. The Planning Board issued nine additional requirements that must be addressed in the application by Thursday, April 16th in order to be included on the agenda for the next Planning Board meeting. If a complete application is submitted in May, the Village attorney, Riccardo Galbato, estimates six to seven months for approval. The new target date for receiving a building permit is December 2026, with a groundbreaking expected in the spring.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:39pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2026 at 6:30pm at the Library.