Board of Directors
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Officers Present: President Dave Hempson, Treasurer Maura Molnar, Secretary Kathryn Carlson, Kristin LaBeau (at-large),

Trustees: Jennifer Feeney, Susanne Guske, Anne McCarthy, Erin McCormack, Larry Palmieri, Cristina Pietropaoli, Meghann Sandak, Paul Torrisi, Jr.

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

Absent: Vice President Katie Armijo, Connie Bohrer, Bill Conole, Ralph DeMasi

Members of the Public: Fran McCormack, Duane Wiedor, Ed Keller

Call to order at 6:30 pm

Approval of the Minutes – Minutes from June 9, 2026 regular board meeting were approved as amended. The minutes of the June 9, 2026 special joint meeting of the John D. Barrow Trust and Skaneateles Library Association were approved.

President's Report

President Hempson requested that Treasurer Molnar coordinate a joint reception between the library board and the new Barrow board, to get to know each other and celebrate the culmination of the separation process. She agreed.

President Hempson reported that the Strategic Planning Committee has created a preliminary draft which is being formatted by Trustee McCarthy. It will be discussed at the upcoming board retreat, in light of input from the August community listening events. The draft will be refined and presented to the Board by December for a final vote.

Library Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Snyder reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Onondaga County Public Library System (OCPL) and the member libraries which was sent to the trustees electronically. OCPL provides a variety of services to the member libraries, including materials delivery, maintaining the catalog, access to staff in a number of areas of expertise, etc. The fee for members has been increased by 15%. For the Skaneateles Library Association, this amounts to an increase of $438.06 to a total of $9199.16. A motion to approve the MOU was made by Trustee Sandak and seconded by Trustee McCarthy. It was approved unanimously.

Executive Director Snyder also referred to the Annual Report to New York State that had been sent to the trustees electronically. It is lengthy and contains numerous statistics and other data. It is useful in tracking growth, comparisons with other libraries and ensuring that libraries are fulfilling their requirements. These data have been presented to the Board throughout the year as part of the director's and treasurer's reports. A motion to approve the annual report was made by Trustee Guske and seconded by Trustee LaBeau. It was approved unanimously.

Executive Director Snyder also reported that the library's attorney Stephanie Cole Adams, Esq., has filed a response to the notice of petition that was served on the library and the school district. More information is on the website.

She reported that the Book Sale was very successful with total sales of $24, 414. This is lower than the last few years, but in line with years prior to that. Many thanks to the Book Sale committee of Mary Giroux, Alison Rutter, Sue Eckhardt, Paula Conan and Trustee Molnar. Many participants remarked that it was the most organized book sale they had ever experienced. A letter from the Board will be sent to the press with "thank-you's" to all who contributed. A suggestion to look at pricing for next year was made and will be discussed. Books not sold are donated to various agencies for their use and re-distribution.

In other news, the library had a table at the community center during the 250th anniversary of Independence Day festivities. About 15 representatives walked in the parade. The Summer Reading programs for children and adults are well underway. There have been several adult programs by the new adult services librarian, including a series of programs highlighting the library's digital services.

Finance Committee Report

Treasurer Molnar reported that at the end of June, the operating budget cash on hand was $363K. There is $100K of the tax levy left, and then the book sale money will be used. After that, last year's scheduled withdrawal from the investments will be used. Book sale money came in under what was budgeted ($35K) but expenses have also been lower. The capital fund had $3,242,561 in it. June income for the capital project was $88,500 and expenses were $74,937. Total project income has been $4,759,868 (plus the library's contribution) and total expenses have been $1,769,463. Investments have made gains this past month.

Communications Committee

Trustee LaBeau reported that the committee is proposing a listening tour for the month of August, the purpose of which is to provide and gain information about the library and its mission and services. It will provide information before the strategic plan discussion at a retreat planned for September. Residents can provide information in person, on paper or on line. These events will be located in the hamlets. Two or three trustees will be needed at each location. The format will be similar to the Trustee Office Hours now held at the library twice a month.

She also proposed public project information sessions of about an hour each around specific topics related to the proposed new library project.

A question was asked about the recruitment of residents to join the Friends of the Library. Committee chair Pietropaoli reported that the membership drive occurs in February but residents can join at any time There are gatherings twice a year. Members have perks and will have more in the future. They get direct information and are asked to help the library in a variety of ways.

Fund-Raising Committee

Trustee McCormack reported that the Fund-Raising Committee is now the Development Committee. There will be a kick-off in September. She has been reviewing the information in Little Green Light (LGL) and talking to various people to get a feeling for the key people to ask to join the committee. These people should be highlighted to aid in communication and fund-raising. There is still a lot of interest in supporting the library and the project, and naming opportunities are still available. It was pointed out that there is a need to continue to communicate the lengthy and complete process that was used to get to the present place in the library project.

Fennell Street New Building Project

President Hempson reported that, based on recommendations by the mayor, village board and planning board, local architects to support the site plan application process has been hired. Jo Anne Falco (President of EDR) and Leif G. Kallquist (Holmes King Kallquist & Associates, Architects) have already met electronically with the architects from Oudens Ello. The meeting was very cordial and productive. President Hempson gave several examples of things that had been noted by the planning board to be addressed, that were discussed. Good suggestions emerged from the discussion.

He also proposed hiring a local attorney who is familiar with the zoning process, to advise the library. The Library has had the very able pro bono help of a community member in the past who will work closely with the new attorney. After a search and interview process, he is recommending the hiring of Nadine Bell, Esq. Trustee Palmeri made that motion and Trustee Molnar seconded it. The motion was approved unanimously.

President Hempson also discussed the need for a traffic study and a wetlands study as the project moves forward.

Public Comment Period

Mr. Wiedor offered suggestions about the building project. Ms. McCormack asked about the book sale.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 11, 2026 at 6:30 pm at the Library.