Board of Directors
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 11, 2026

Officers Present: President Dave Hempson, Vice President Katie Armijo Treasurer Maura Molnar, Secretary Kathryn Carlson, Kristin LaBeau (at-large),
Trustees: Ralph DeMasi, Susanne Guske, Anne McCarthy, Erin McCormack, Larry Palmieri, Meghann Sandak
Staff: Library Executive Director Andea Snyder, Assistant Director and Librarian for Children & Teens Mary Beth Schwartzwalder
Absent: Connie Bohrer, Bill Conole, Jennifer Feeney, Cristina Pietropaoli, Paul Torrisi, Jr.
Members of the Public: Fran McCormack

Call to order at 6:30 pm

Public Comment Period – no comments

Approval of the Minutes – Minutes from July 14, 2026 regular board meeting were approved.

President's Report
President Hempson reported that the Strategic Plan Committee met and has developed five goals with accompanying objectives, actions and metrics. This draft document will be reviewed at the upcoming Board retreat, in light of the public input.
The Spafford listening session had several participants. Out of that event came a suggestion to develop an "elevator speech" to explain our vision in a few minutes time. The top components as discussed were access, life-long learning and civic engagement. A slogan might be "a library everyone can use". It is a once -in-a-lifetime investment.
President Hempson reported that our attorney had submitted a brief on our behalf to the Commissioner of Education regarding the tax levy challenge, as had the original challenger. We anticipate a response from the commissioner by the end of the year. The challenge centers on the way absentee ballots were distributed and counted.
A suggestion to schedule a half-day retreat for the Board was discussed and the date was set for Saturday October 3. The location has yet to be finalized. It will include a review of the draft strategic plan, a building update, a discussion of ways to more engage the community, and a preview of the proposed library programming for 2027.
The date of the September Board meeting was changed to September 15 due to the fact that the 8th is the day after Labor Day when school is starting back up.

Executive Director Report
Director Snyder reported that she and Trustee Carlson (Governance Committee Chair) were working on a plan for policy review throughout this year. Beginning in September, one or two policies will be on the agenda for review or adoption (of new policies).

She is working on the next construction grant application and will submit it to the OCPL at the end of the month. Approval takes at least a year and our current application for $500K has yet to be finally approved by the state. Previous grants were for $313,350 for purchase of the property and $1,170,000 for foundation/slab work.
Upcoming summer events are a guitar concert at the Borodino Grange building on August 28 at 7:30 pm and a "glow in the dark" family event at the library on August 22 from 3-5pm.
The summer reading program has had a lot of participation with the adult segment having record-breaking participation. She gave a big shout-out to the staff who have had a busy summer and always make everyone feel special.

Finance Committee Report
Treasurer Molnar reported that the capital campaign has $3,346,693 in assets. The operating cash on hand is $322,750. This is the last of the FY 2025 tax levy money and after that the funds withdrawn from the investment accounts will be used for operating expenses. She will also be moving $100,000 of previously drawn investment money into the capital campaign funds. Investments are up by $35K. July income was $27K, largely due to the book sale. July expenses were bigger due to there being three payrolls, and to legal costs for the vote challenge, the last of the Barrow separation expenses and the planning board preparation expenses. Year to date new building expenses are $375,481 and cash in is $3,007,886. The project to date expenses are $1,777,847 and total project to date cash in is $5,124,119.
There was a discussion about the need to review a number of options for the timing of bonding in order to take the most fiscally responsible avenue.
President Hempson thanked Treasurer Molnar for her excellent work.

Communications Committee Report
Committee Chairperson Trustee LaBeau that the schedule of listening tours and survey collections was ongoing throughout August. So far there have been 91 surveys returned. The Sennett meeting will be at the town office meeting room instead of the park. She would like a subcommittee to help her draft the "elevator speech".

Development Committee Report
Committee Chairperson Erin McCormack reported that she had gathered input from all current committee members through three scheduled meetings and will use that information to develop a strategy for financial development for the next 18-24 months. She wants to engage current donors in ongoing communication to encourage continued investments in the library structure and programming. She is encouraging naming and legacy gifts and program sponsorships. In phases two and three of the building project, there will be continued opportunities for grants and donations. She suggests that every communication from the Library should be asking for donations and support for both the building project and the general operation of the library. She suggests that every committee member have a partner and together they complete one objective, (e.g., a donor contact) each month. People should be more confident that the building will be built, so we anticipate that they will be more willing to donate. A list of current naming opportunities, including those that become available in phases two and three, will be sent to each Board member.
She then informed the Board that the Rotary has chosen the library for their service project in 2027. The Skaneateles class of 1976 has raised $52K for the library. These are signs of community support for the project.

Fennell Street New Building Committee Report
President and New Building Project Chairperson Committee Hempson reported that the committee was focused on addressing the issues raised by the Planning Board. For some of the suggestions and concerns, they will show the Planning Board the way the requirements work out in the actual building, and then present what they feel might be a more functional approach. The goal is to have the application completed by September 10 for Planning Board submission, with it having been reviewed by the local architect and attorney.

The traffic study will be done by GTS Consulting by August 31. A small wetland area was designated by a Cornell team, but it is more than 100 feet from any proposed building so the committee is asking DEC to dismiss it as a possible problem. The library will host a public information session (date tbd) prior to the library's application being included on the Planning Board agenda to explain the new plans and costs.

New Business
President Hempson reported that there will be a Volunteer Reception on Thursday January 14 from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. The location will be determined.
Since 2027 will be the Library's 150th anniversary, there will be a celebration. Trustee McCarthy will chair the 150th anniversary celebration planning committee.

Public Comment Period
Ms. McCormack expressed thanks to the Skaneateles class of 1976 for their support of the library.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for **September 15**, 2026 at 6:30 pm at the Library.