

Minutes for the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Amherst Public Library



Wednesday, December 3, 2025 –at 5:30pm

Meeting held at the:

Hon. Shirley Chisholm Library (Audubon) - Community Room 1
350 John James Audubon Parkway
Amherst, NY 14228

A). Meeting called to order and attendance – **5:30 PM by Jeffrey Voelkl**

**Present: Jeffrey Voelkl, Oliver Young, Carolyn Giambra, Marilyn Feuerstein,
David Saia, Randy Harris, Patricia Dore (5:32 pm), Jessica Black (5:32 pm),
Penny Wolfgang (6:07 pm)**

Also present: Director Kristi Dougherty, Laura Stachura and Jacqueline Berger

B). Review and Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on October 21, 2025

Motion to approve by Carolyn Giambra, seconded by Oliver Young.

7 Ayes – 1 opposed

C). Review and Approval of the Agenda for December 3, 2025

Motion to approve by David Saia, seconded by Randy Harris.

All in favor.

D). Public comment – none at this time.

E). Report of the President – nothing to report.

F.) Finances

- 2025 Budget
 - County bills paid
 - Williamsville bills paid
 - Other bills paid

Motion to approve by Marilyn Feuerstein, seconded by Jeffrey Voelkl.

All in favor.

G). Committee Reports

- Town of Amherst Library Liaison – **Jacqueline Berger presented Jeffrey Voelkl with a Proclamation for his 19 years of service on the Amherst Public Library Board of Trustees.**

H). Report of the Library Director

- Buildings & Grounds

Williamsville:

Nothing to report

Clearfield:

Urinal repaired by caretaker; HVAC freeze mode issue – repaired by Town;

Audubon:

Exterminators called regarding mouse sighting; plow stakes in place; Quarterly fire sprinkler inspection completed

Eggertsville-Snyder:

Broken vacuum handle repaired by caretaker; old tables replaced in meeting room; heating issue with spark box on December 2 & 3 worked on by NOCO

All 4 Libraries:

Ice melt delivered for each of the branches, various equipment is ready for the snow

- Library Material Circulation

Circulation of materials checked out in October 2025:

Audubon – 37,716

Clearfield – 26,165

Eggertsville-Snyder – 12,923

Williamsville – 4,270

80,444 materials circulated in October 2025!



Circulation of materials checked out in November 2025:

Audubon – 35,037

Clearfield – 24,592

Eggertsville-Snyder – 12,486

Williamsville – 3,401

75,516 materials circulated in November 2025!



- Programming

Late Fall/Early Winter events – Holiday Storytimes & Santa visits, Seasonal Sing-Alongs, Festival of Lights Celebration, Mahjong Club, Author visits, Holiday Card & Bow Making presented by Smallwood Garden Club, Adult Yoga, Book Clubs, Technology Training, Jewelry Making, Winter Magic Show, Lake Effect Flute Choir Performance, Guitar Quartet Concert, Noon Year's Eve Parties, and more!

- Book & Media Sales

Audubon Library
November 12 – 16, 2025
\$5,938.58

Clearfield Library
January 7 – 10, 2026
(preview day January 6 with \$10 admission, 3-5:30pm)

Eggertsville-Snyder Library
January 14 – 19, 2026
(preview day January 13 with \$10 admission, 10am-12pm)

- Feedback from Library Patrons Regarding Building Renaming

Documents with comments from patrons were provided to board members.

On December 1, 2025 a public hearing was held at the Amherst Municipal Building to hear all persons interested in renaming of the building located at 350 John James Audubon Parkway, Amherst, New York 14228 (Amherst Main Library at Audubon) to Honorable Shirley Chisholm Library. The Amherst Town Board unanimously voted to rename the building. Library Board members in attendance that spoke included Carolyn Giambra, Marilyn Feuerstein, and Patricia Dore.

Director Dougherty also spoke:

Hello, my name is Kristi Dougherty and I am the Amherst Public Libraries Director. I oversee the Amherst Main Library at Audubon, Clearfield, Eggertsville-Snyder and Williamsville branches, which are contracting libraries with the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System. Amherst Libraries are unique in that they serve different areas of Amherst, but are utilized by patrons across Erie County and New York State.

Feedback about the name change has been varied. As such, we protect each library user's right to privacy and confidentiality with respect to information sought or received and resources consulted, borrowed, acquired or transmitted. Verified library patron comments have been collected for those who did not wish to share their address and/or email.

There has been precedent in library building renaming to honor individuals. An example would be the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building, which houses the flagship location of the New York Public Library. Similar can be done with the Amherst Main Library at Audubon, housed in the Honorable Shirley Chisholm Library Building – providing an opportunity to highlight the accomplishments & local connection of the Honorable Shirley Chisholm; in addition to maintaining the original library name for the community and on materials to denote the location.

It is my hope that this proposed building renaming elevates the needs of maintenance and capital improvements for all 4 library buildings. They include Eggertsville-Snyder Library Roof & Fascia Repair, Williamsville Library Roof Repair, carpet replacement & phone line updates; Amherst Main Library HVAC 1 replacement and software update costs; Amherst Main Library bathrooms with multiple stalls renovation (of which needs include drain tile, working exhaust fans, updated tile, fixtures, etc.); accessible button push doors for Clearfield Library Hopkins Rd. entrance & Eggertsville-Snyder ramp entrance; Clearfield Library HVAC replacement in the very near future due to issues from old unit; changing lighting at all 4 libraries to LED and much much more. The Amherst libraries are thankful for the allocation in the town's budget for quarterly HVAC maintenance & repairs, garbage & recycling, security system updates, pest control, maintenance supplies, plumbing fixes, fire inspections, roof repairs and also much much more.

Thank you to everyone in attendance for supporting public libraries. Your passion for collaborative engagement strengthens our community.

A new plaque was requested by the Board for the George & Mary Bobinski Community Room at the Community Room 1 entrance.

I). Old Business

- Strategic Plan 2026-2028

The draft document was workshopped by those present.

Action to table this item was motioned by Jeffrey Voelkl, seconded by Randy Harris, Seven ayes, one abstained.

Strategic Plan approval to be tabled until final edition with Board's workshopped feedback is presented at the January meeting.

J). New Business

- 2026 APL Board Meeting Dates

Meetings begin at 5:30pm. All meetings are open to the public.

Tuesday, January 13, 2026 - Williamsville Library, Community Room

Wednesday, March 4, 2026 - Eggertsville-Snyder Library, Community Room

Tuesday, April 21, 2026 - Hon. Shirley Chisholm Library (Audubon),
Community Room 1

Wednesday, May 20, 2026 - Clearfield Library, Community Room

Wednesday, July 15, 2026 - Eggertsville-Snyder Library, Community Room

Thursday, September 10, 2026 - Hon. Shirley Chisholm Library (Audubon),
Community Room 1

Tuesday, October 27, 2026 - Williamsville Library, Community Room

Thursday, December 3, 2026 - Hon. Shirley Chisholm Library (Audubon),
Community Room 1

Motion to approve was made by Carolyn Giambra, seconded by Randy Harris.

All in favor.

- Trustee Vacancy 2026 (President) & Election of Officers

Motion to nominate David Saia as president of the Board of Trustees was made by Oliver Young, seconded by Randy Harris.

All in favor.

Current officers agreed to continue in their current roles.

Motion to approve was made by Jessica Black, seconded by Randy Harris.

All in favor.

K). Correspondence/Other Items As Needed - nothing at this time.

Executive session-called to order at 6:41 pm to discuss a personnel matter. Approved by Randy Harris, seconded by David Saia. All in favor.

Back into regular session at 6:59 pm. Approved by Oliver Young, seconded by David Saia. All in favor.

Next meeting to be held:

Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 5:30 pm at the Williamsville Library Community Room.

L). Adjournment -Motion to adjourn by Jeffrey Voelkl, seconded by Marilyn Feuerstein. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.