

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



Tuesday, January 13, 2026 –at 5:30pm

Meeting held at the:
Williamsville Library
 5571 Main Street
 Williamsville, NY 14221

A). Meeting called to order and attendance at **5:32 pm** by **David Saia**

**Present: David Saia, Carolyn Giambra, Marilyn Feuerstein, Patricia Dore,
 Penny Wolfgang (5:32 pm), Oliver Young (5:34 pm).**

Excused absence: Jessica Black

**Also present: Director Kristi Dougherty, Laura Stachura, Amherst Town
 Councilmember John Davis, Library System Board Liaison Kathleen Bucki and
 Samantha Nephew (5:39 pm)**

B). Review and Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on December 3, 2025

Motion to approve by Carolyn Giambra, seconded by Marilyn Feuerstein.

All in favor.

C). Review and Approval of the Agenda for January 13, 2026

Motion to approve by Oliver Young, seconded by Penny Wolfgang.

All in favor.

D). Public comment – **None at this time**

E). Report of the President – **David Saia reported he met with Director Kristi**

**Dougherty on January 8th, 2026 and discussed visiting each Amherst branch to
 meet with the staff. They also discussed meeting with local school librarians
 and upcoming continuing education opportunities.**

F.) Finances

- 2025/2026 Budget
 - County bills paid
 - Williamsville bills paid
 - Other bills paid

Motion to approve by Oliver Young, seconded by Marilyn Feuerstein.

All in favor.

G). Committee Reports

- Town of Amherst Library Liaison – **Amherst Town Councilmember John Davis - none at this time**

H). Report of the Library Director

- Buildings & Grounds

Williamsville:

Floor buckling issue near return desk, fixed by Town and will be monitored for more extensive repairs if needed.

Clearfield:

Notified Town Highway Department dispatch about potholes at the driveway adjacent to the plaza. Phone connection issues on January 2.

Hon. Shirley Chisholm Library (Audubon):

Gas smell complaints from patrons – Town inspected HVAC and building on multiple occasions based on complaints. On days when there are below freezing temperatures and wide temperature swings (especially if the building has been closed for an extended period), secondary heating will switch on to work harder to heat the building and the exhaust can be smelled depending on the wind. Fans help to circulate the air and it dissipates within minutes.

Building closed at 5pm on December 26, 2025 due to lack of staff. Branch-wide illnesses and other health matters during December and January have led to minimal staffing at all levels.

Mural discussion based on a proposal by local artist Nate Phillips who wants to give back to the library.

Motion to approve mural by Oliver Young, seconded by Penny Wolfgang.

All in favor.



(Photos: Proposed design in children's area of library to feature area birds in flight that can be seen outside the library)

Eggertsville-Snyder:

New ceiling/roof leak area by reference desk – patched by Town roof contractors

All 4 Libraries:

Monday, December 29 – Libraries that opened at 10am closed at 12pm, other libraries remained closed due to forecasted weather conditions. Central and other libraries around the county also closed early.

- Library Material Circulation

Circulation of materials checked out in December 2025:

Hon. Shirley Chisholm (Audubon) – 31,408

Clearfield – 23,543 Eggertsville-Snyder – 11,762 Williamsville – 3,037

69,750 materials circulated in December 2025!

- Programming

January/February events – Weekly storytime sessions to begin the week of February 2, Technology Training, Winter Baby Rave, English Conversation Group, Adult Yoga, Mahjong Club, Family story time & play time, Book Clubs, LEGO events, Pokémon Club, Family Bingo, Quiet Club, New books party! (featuring children's books), Holiday crafts for kids, STEM Club, Fairy Fest, Adult Crafts, February break activities in the Maker Space, Let's Travel the World in partnership with the Amherst Diversity Commission, Movie Day and more

End of year wrap-up:

Pet Pics with Santa – This new event, coordinated by Librarian Trainee **Katherine Pizzuto** with assistance from Branch Manager **Beth Staebell**, at the Hon. Shirley Chisholm (Audubon) Library, was very popular with human and furry patrons! Library Clerk **Pam Steinbrenner** helped to wrangle Santa and his visitors at the various events.



(Photos: Santa with animals and families)

The 2025 World Community Family Series - Festival of Lights (Clearfield Library) – This session featured crafts to learn about traditions that use the symbol of light. Librarian **Joan Stoltman** created a diverse assortment of educational activities.

Jewelry Making - Clearfield Library Branch Manager **Mary Lou Kinyon** continues to partner with the Bead Gallery for jewelry making workshops at the various Amherst branches.

Mahjong Club (Eggertsville-Snyder Library) – Registrants can join a table or sign up for a party of four! Easy Classic Chinese Style and American are available, with tiles, mats, and racks

provided. Librarian **Mary Koenig** has invested time to learn the game and maintain regular attendees, in addition to their popular Adult Craft Club and Pokémon Clubs.

Early Literacy - Eggertsville-Snyder Library Branch Manager **Angela Kelkenberg** continues to read stories and coordinate activities with a local specialized early childhood center, in addition to weekly story time sessions.

Early Childhood Outreach (Williamsville Library) - Librarian **Wanda Collins** continues to welcome nearby daycare center students to visit the library for story time and goes out to visit various locations to promote literacy when weather is an issue.

Tuesday, December 16, 2025 - The **Williamsville Library** hosted a press conference for Assemblymember Jon D. Rivera to announce that the Dolly Parton Imagination Library is now available in all Erie County zip codes. Williamsville (14221) was one of the last zip codes to be covered. United Way of Buffalo & Erie County, which oversees local implementation, credited the expansion to strong enrollment numbers, unanimous community support, and the Assemblymember's continued advocacy for early literacy programs. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library mails a free, age-appropriate book each month to enrolled children from birth to age five.

From the press release, **Kristi Dougherty, Amherst Public Libraries Director** said, "The Dolly Parton Imagination Library inspires a love of reading from birth. It is my hope that the books received will lead to increased family engagement and library visits to discover even more free books to read. Librarians and other staff can also provide access to resources for daily literacy-building activities."



(Photos: 5 people displaying a Dolly Parton Imagination Library poster, 5 people around a podium, child being read to by librarian)

- Book & Media Sales

Clearfield Library

January 7 – 10, 2026

(preview day January 6 with \$10 admission, 3-5:30pm)

\$3,896.00

Eggertsville-Snyder Library

January 14 – 19, 2026

(preview day January 13 with \$10 admission, 10am-12pm)

The debut early bird sales went well, helping to reduce room congestion.

Hon. Shirley Chisholm (Audubon) Library

February 18 – 22, 2026

I). Old Business

- Strategic Plan 2026-2028

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

All in favor.

J). New Business

- Trustee Vacancy – Potential New Member

Motion to enter into Executive session to discuss potential new board member, Samantha Nephew, by Marilyn Feuerstein, seconded by Oliver Young.

All in favor.

Executive session began at 6:01 pm.

Motion to approve resumption of regular meeting made by Oliver Young, seconded by Marilyn Feuerstein. Meeting resumed at 6:13 pm.

Motion to approve Samantha Nephew as a board member made by Carolyn Giambra, seconded by Oliver Young.

All in favor.

Carolyn Giambra proposed purchasing a plaque in honor of Mary & George Bobinski for the wall outside of Community Room 1 not to exceed \$1,000. Discussion ensued.

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

All in favor.

K). Correspondence/Other Items As Needed - Recruitment by library trustees to fill vacancy on the board, potential member must be an Amherst resident. Randy Harris resigned from the board effective January 5, 2026. Brochure will be reissued by libraries if there are no recruited candidates after the March board meeting.

L.) Next meeting to be held:

Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at the Eggertsville-Snyder Library (Community Room)

M). Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Oliver Young, seconded by Penny Wolfgang.

All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 6:23pm.