

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



Meeting held at the:
Eggertsville-Snyder Library (Community Room)
 4622 Main St., Snyder, NY 14226
 Wednesday, July 9, 2025 at 5:30pm

A). Meeting called to order and attendance – **5:31 pm by Oliver Young**

Present: Oliver Young, Carolyn Giambra, Marilyn Feuerstein, Penny Wolfgang (arrived at 5:36 pm), David Saia, Patricia Dore, Randy Harris (arrived at 5:36 pm)

Excused absence: Jeffrey Voelkl, Jessica Black

Also present: Director Kristi Dougherty, Laura Stachura

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

Motion to approve by Marilyn Feuerstein, seconded by David Saia.

All in favor.

C). Review and Approval of the Agenda for July 9, 2025

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

All in favor.

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

E). Report of the President – **not in attendance-excused absence**

F.) Finances

- 2025 Budget
- County bills paid

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

All in favor.

- Williamsville bills paid

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

All in favor.

- Other bills paid

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

All in favor.

Discussion ensued about the 2026 budget. Director Dougherty informed the board that the Library System was notified by Erie County, Division of Budget & Management about submitting a “status quo” budget without discretionary spending.

With the uncertainty of Federal funding, and its potential effect on State and county funding, the Erie County Budget Director has asked all County departments and agencies to prepare a “What If” plan for a 10% reduction in County Funding.

Unfortunately, the worst case 10% reduction scenario would result in reductions in various parts of the Library System Budget. Including but not limited to, reduction in open hours, staffing, programming, and library materials. Director Dougherty will be working on budget sheets as they are sent by the System.

G). Committee Reports

- Town of Amherst Library Liaison – **Liaison not in attendance**

H). Report of the Library Director

- Buildings & Grounds

Williamsville:

Heating issue on May 23 – Building had to close to public while it was being repaired

Clearfield:



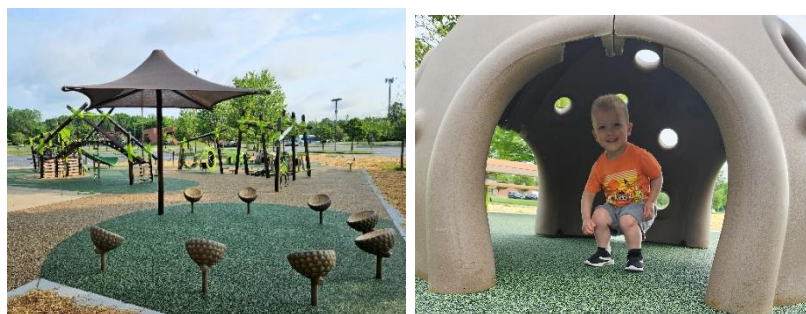
Interior dripping faucet, exterior hose faucet, and public bathroom door handle repaired by Town. Air conditioning sensor repairs also completed as there were days with cooling issues.

Memorial statue donated by Town and Country Garden Club installed on June 30 (*photos of the installation process shared with board members*).

Director Kristi Dougherty will research insurance for the garden statues at Williamsville & Clearfield Libraries.

Audubon:

Adjacent playground opened and door count numbers averaged an increase of several hundred more people per day. Bathroom usage and garbage have also increased, which have led to an updated floor scrubber purchase. Leaking hot water tank and broken automatic opener of front door repaired by town.



Eggertsville-Snyder:

Non-functioning hot water tank replaced by Town.

All 4 Libraries:

Fire extinguishers tested and updated where needed by Town vendor.

- **Library Material Circulation**

Circulation of materials checked out in May 2025:

Audubon – 36,730
 Clearfield – 26,736
 Eggertsville-Snyder – 12,972
 Williamsville – 3,807

80,245 materials circulated in May 2025!

Circulation of materials checked out in June 2025:

Audubon – 39,808
 Clearfield – 28,089
 Eggertsville-Snyder – 13,406
 Williamsville – 4,184

85,487 materials circulated in June 2025!

- Programming

Late-May and June events included – Jewelry Workshops, Local author visits, Book a Technology Trainer, Mahjong Club, English Conversation Group, Date with Death Club, Weavers Guild of Buffalo Weaving Demonstration, Adult Craft Club, Frank Lloyd Wright Goes to Hollywood lecture, Learn to Play Irish Music, and Trivia Through Time Challenge.

Summer events to feature - Weekly storytimes, Local author visits, Shark Week Spectacular, Minecraft Club, Young Adult Writing Club, Teen Game Night, Pokémon Club, Caterpillar to Wings!, Guitar Concert, Folk Music, Adult Craft Club, Bollywood Dance Class, Story Book Cook, Drop-In LEGO Club, Mahjong Club, Financial Fraud Workshop, Community Action Organization (CAO) hiring event, Plan N' Learn About AI, various performers and more! Summer Picnic will be Thursday, August 14 from 11am-1pm.

Queerlit Book Club debuted at the Clearfield Library at the end of June. There will be monthly meetings through October.

Summer Reading Challenge for all ages will be June 27 to August 30. This year ages 11 and under complete a Bingo Card of reading challenges. Ages 12 and up read 5 books from different categories. Each age group will be able to pick a prize from a treasure chest upon completion. Patrons will let us know what they might want to win for a Grand Prize (not to exceed \$50). The Summer Reading Kickoff on June 27 at the Audubon Library had 250 attendees!

Additional gift card for the summer raffle received from: Half Baked Cookies, Franco's Pizza

- Book Sales

Clearfield Library

June 4 - 7, 2025

\$3,611.53

June 9 featured a day where teachers, educators and non-profits could come in and take books for free (after providing ID).

Audubon Library (includes books & media)

June 11 - 14, 2025

\$5,614.05

June 16 featured a day where teachers, educators and non-profits could come in and take books for free (after providing ID).

Eggertsville-Snyder Library

June 25 – 28 & 30, 2025

\$1,511

Discussion ensued regarding the first hours/day of big book sales having an early bird admission fee in 2026. There have been issues with booksellers blocking tables and books, not allowing patrons to fully browse what is available and deterring them from future book sales.

- Professional Development

May 2025 – Librarian Joan Stoltman attended and presented about Baby Raves at the Southern Tier Library System Spring CE Conference. Librarians had heard about Joan's NYLA YSS Conference presentation and wanted to learn more to share with their colleagues.

Baby Raves are THE premier library programming event sweeping across New York State from Buffalo to Long Island for toddlers and babies under age 2. Come learn about this viral dance and music experience that promotes early childhood development through movement & multi-sensory stimuli. See how you can engage the new generation of caretakers in your community, a generation hungry for diverse, experiential programming. With a small investment in supplies, you can count on baby raves as a proven way to educate a wider audience to the "public-library-as-community-center" revolution!

June 10, 2025 – Librarian Trainee Katherine Pizzuto completed the New York Library Association (NYLA) Developing Leaders Program by presenting a Capstone Presentation in Albany, New York about Combatting Book Challenges.

<https://www.nyla.org/developing-leaders-program---2025-cohort>

June 27 – 30, 2025: Director Kristi Dougherty and Trustee David Saia attended the American Library Association (ALA) Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

I). Old Business

- Strategic Plan 2026-2028

David Saia, Marilyn Feuerstein and Director Kristi Dougherty agreed to work on the Strategic Plan for 2026-2028

J). New Business

- Williamsville Library - Pocket Park Sculpture Donation

Motion to approve the donation of funds by Nick & Marcia Roth for the purchase of a sculpture by Penny Wolfgang, seconded by Randy Harris.

All in favor.

- 2025 Member Library System Contract

RESOLUTION adopted by the Board of Trustees of the
Amherst Public Library Library at a regular (or special) meeting of
 said Board of Trustees held at Egbertville-Snyder Library on the 9 day of
July, 2025 at 5:30 o'clock.

I HEREBY CERTIFY, that at a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the
Amherst Public L. Library, held at Egbertville-Snyder Libr on
 the 9 day of July, 2025, a resolution was adopted of which
 the following is a true copy:

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Chapter 768 of the
 Laws of 1953 of the State of New York, this Board of
 Trustees does hereby approve the agreement submitted
 by the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library for the
 furnishing of free library privileges to the people of the
 County of Erie, by this Library for the year 2025, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the
 President of this Board be, and he/she is, hereby
 authorized and directed to execute the same on behalf of
 this Board.

Board Secretary
Marilyn Feuerstein
 Signature
Marilyn Feuerstein
 Print Name

7 Ayes
 _____ Noes

**Motion to approve by Marilyn
 Feuerstein, seconded by David
 Saia.**

All in favor.

**Contract will be signed by the
 President at a later date, then sent
 to the System.**

K). Correspondence/Other Items As Needed

6/18/25 - Email feedback from Tabitha K. - *My staff and our residents are also very lucky to have the staff at Clearfield Library. I just want to say Mary Lou and her staff go over and beyond to help. We started a book club I would say around a year ago and finding large print books with the quantity we need is challenging. My last trip I gave Mary Lou 7 different books my residents picked for July's book club, and all of them had no large print books or very few. Mary Lou and her staff worked together on a project. Which was a list of books they recommended for book club. On this list it also listed how many large print books there were for that book and how many pages the book had. My residents are grateful for the choices we have for the next coming months!*

Next meeting to be held:

Thursday, September 11, 2025 at 5:30pm at the Audubon Library, Community Room 1

L). Adjournment

Motion to approve by David Saia, seconded by Marilyn Feuerstein.

All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 6:27 pm