

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



Tuesday, October 21, 2025 – starting at 5:30pm

Meeting held at the:
Williamsville Library (Community Room)
 5571 Main Street
 Williamsville, NY 14221

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

Present: Jeffrey Voelkl, Carolyn Giambra, Penny Wolfgang, Patricia Dore,
 David Saia, Jessica Black, Oliver Young (5:31 pm)

Excused absence: Marilyn Feuerstein, Randy Harris

Also present: Director Kristi Dougherty, Laura Stachura, Jacqueline Berger
 and one member of the public.

B). Review and Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on September 11, 2025

Motion to approve by Carolyn Giambra, seconded by David Saia.

All in favor.

C). Review and Approval of the Agenda for October 21, 2025

Motion to approve by Jeffrey Voelkl, seconded by David Saia.

All in favor.

D). Public comment – This was tabled as a member of the public had informed the library board they wanted to speak at the meeting.

Amherst Town Board Councilmember Angela Marinucci presented the following regarding a proposed name change of the Main Library at Audubon to the Shirley Chisholm Library:

Shirley Chisholm was the first African American woman in Congress (1968) and the first woman and African American to seek the nomination for president of the United States from one of the two major political parties (1972). Initially, Chisholm worked as a nursery school teacher. She earned a master's degree from Columbia University in early childhood education in 1951. By 1960, she was a consultant to the New York City Division of Day Care. She was a co-founder of the National Women's Political Caucus in 1971, and in 1977 became the first Black woman and second woman ever to serve on the powerful House Rules Committee.

She married Arthur Hardwick, Jr., who was a one-time state legislator. Hardwick, a Western New York native, was the first African American from Erie County to serve on the New York State Legislature. The two met while serving in Albany. They were active in various civic organizations including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), with Hardwick serving on the executive state board.

Shirley retired from Congress in 1982 and the couple lived in Williamsville, NY until Arthur died in 1986, and in 1991 Shirley moved to Florida. Shirley Chisholm died on January 1, 2005, and her wishes were to be entombed with her late husband Arthur Hardwick in Forest Lawn's Birchwood Mausoleum. Inscribed on her crypt is the slogan: "Unbought and Unbossed."

It was pointed out that NYC Audubon changed their name to NYC Bird Alliance after a months-long assessment process, forming a Name Change Task Force to curate name suggestions. John James Audubon was a slave owner and opponent of abolition. The organization stated the name change is part of its commitment to inclusivity, equity, and accessibility, and to help remove barriers to engaging with a broader, more diverse community. Buffalo Audubon and the National Audubon Society remain unchanged.

It was stated that a variety of legislators support the name change and there may be funding to cover associated costs. On May 1, 2025 Senator Ryan acquired funding for a statue honoring Shirley Chisholm at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Buffalo.

Councilmember Angela Marinucci plans to propose a resolution at the November 10th Town Board meeting for a public hearing regarding the name change, which is estimated to take place on December 8th.

Many city libraries have been named after members of the community within the past 10 years - Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Library; Leroy R. Coles, Jr. Branch Library; Elaine M. Panty Branch Library; Isaías González-Soto Branch Library

Contracting libraries that have name of individuals include the Town of Cheektowaga Julia Boyer Reinstein and Anna Reinstein Memorial Libraries, of which the family members contributed greatly to the community and helped to establish the libraries.

Questions and suggestions from the board included: Naming the playground after Shirley Chisholm; What specifically did Shirley Chisholm do for Amherst?; Who else was considered for the name change that reflects the library and the Amherst community?

E). Report of the President – nothing at this time

F.) Finances

- 2025 Budget
 - County bills paid

**Motion to approve by Penny Wolfgang, seconded by David Saia.
All in favor.**

- Williamsville bills paid

**Motion to approve by Penny Wolfgang, seconded by David Saia.
All in favor.**

- Other bills paid

**Motion to approve by Penny Wolfgang, seconded by David Saia.
All in favor.**

G). Committee Reports

- Town of Amherst Library Liaison – **Jacqueline Berger apologized for not being available recently - personal issues.**

H). Report of the Library Director

- Buildings & Grounds



Williamsville:

October 13 – Atomic Kaleidoscope Dedication Ceremony – Director Dougherty spoke on behalf of the Amherst Public Libraries thanking the donors Nick & Marcia Roth for their continued support and the Village Beautification Committee for all their work on the Mural Garden. 52 people were in attendance for the ribbon cutting, including Library Trustees Marilyn Feuerstein and Penny Wolfgang.



Broken staff door handle fixed by Town.

Clearfield:



Air conditioning fixed! Shade added to study room window and two more to be installed by caretaker near public computers that receive strong sunlight. A young patron's bike was stolen - camera footage helped to identify the culprit and the bike was recovered.

Audubon:

Exterminators called for yellow jackets in the Director's office; final areas mulched around the shipping area; LVT floors refinished and men's bathroom toilet fixed by caretaker



Egbertsville-Snyder:

Rug replaced in playroom; another roof leak in maintenance room; planters decorated with pumpkins, mums and fall décor; front pillars repainted white; front wooden sign slated to be painted when the weather

cooperates

All 4 Libraries:

Eggertsville-Snyder, Audubon and Clearfield Libraries have a new town contract with Modern for trash and recycling. Audubon and Clearfield received larger trash containers, in addition to recycling containers. Eggertsville-Snyder has 3 rolling totes for recycling. These containers are for library use only and not open for public dumping. Paper Retriever bins were removed as they caused repeated issues with overfilling, inappropriate items being disposed and they were no longer was a fund raiser for the libraries. Williamsville trash is covered by the Village (totes are used & are often available during Village events).

- Library Material Circulation

Circulation of materials checked out in September 2025:

Audubon – 38,071

Clearfield – 27,477

Eggertsville-Snyder – 13,630

Williamsville – 4,060

83,238 materials circulated in September 2025!

- Programming



Fall events - Weekly storytimes, Monthly Book Groups, Local Author Visits, Pokémon Club, Adult Craft Club, Drop-In LEGO Club, Mahjong Club, Jewelry Making, Spooky Booky Bash, Crow Party, Halloween Baby Rave, Diwali Family Party, Family Book Bingo, Chair & Mat Yoga, Fall Fairy Garden Doors presented by Smallwood Garden Club, Outdoor Observers Club, Wicked Sing-along Party, Baby Sleep Tips Workshop, Learn to Crochet and more!



October 17, 2025 – Director Dougherty tabled at Transit Middle School's Fall Fest.

October 5, 2025 – The Right to Read Rally at the Audubon Library was a great success! Abigail Friedman and other young advocates kicked off Banned Books/Freedom to Read Week. Assemblymember Karen McMahon, U.S. Congressman Tim Kennedy and local author Rachel DiNunzio also spoke at the event, which had 65 attendees.

- Book & Media Sales

Clearfield Library
September 10 – 13, 2025
\$3,868.05

Audubon Library
November 12 – 16, 2025



- Professional Development

Clearfield Library Clerk Joce Kofke received a scholarship from WNYLRC to attend classes for the NYLA Library Skills Academy. Topics included: Reference Services, Public/Customer Service, Technical Services, Program Development, Collection Development, Outreach & Advocacy, and the Library Community

I). Old Business

- Strategic Plan 2026-2028 Update – **document being worked on and will be presented at the December 3rd meeting.**

J). New Business

- 2026 APL Closings & Sunday Hours

New Year's Day Thursday, January 1, 2026

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Monday, January 19, 2026

President's Day Monday, February 16, 2026

Good Friday Friday, April 3, 2026

Professional Development Day (NYLA YSS) Friday, April 17, 2026

Memorial Day Monday, May 25, 2026

Juneteenth Friday, June 19, 2026

Independence Day Friday, July 3 and Saturday, July 4, 2026

Old Home Days (WILLIAMSVILLE LIBRARY ONLY)

Tuesday, July 14 – Friday, July 17, 2026

Labor Day Monday, September 7, 2026

Professional Development Day (ALSC Institute) Friday, October 2, 2026

Veteran's Day Wednesday, November 11, 2026

Thanksgiving Thursday, November 26, 2026

Christmas Eve Thursday, December 24, 2026

Christmas Day Friday, December 25, 2026

New Year's Eve Thursday, December 31, 2026*

*Audubon, Clearfield and Eggertsville-Snyder Libraries to close at 4pm.

SUNDAY HOURS (12-5pm) Main Library at Audubon ONLY

January 4 to June 14, 2026 (no April 5, May 10 & May 24)

September 13 to December 13, 2026 (no December 20 & 27)

Note - Sunday hours are dependent on the county budget and may be subject to change

Motion to approve by David Saia, seconded by Carolyn Giambra.

All in favor.

- Personnel Appointments

Pay Period 23 –PT Page, Azraq Ahmed, Audubon Library; PT Page, Lillian Piatek, Eggertsville-Snyder Library

Motion to approve by Jeffrey Voelkl, seconded by David Saia.

All in favor.

K). Correspondence/Other Items As Needed – **none at this time.**

Executive session to discuss proposed library name change suggested by Jeffrey Voelkl.

Motion to approve executive session by Patricia Dore and seconded by Penny Wolfgang at 6:13pm.

Motion by Carolyn Giambra and seconded by Oliver to resume open meeting at 6:38 pm.

Motion by Carolyn Giambra to offer board support for the name change of the Main Library at Audubon to the Shirley Chisholm Library, seconded by Oliver Young.

4 in favor, 2 abstain, 1 nay

Next meeting to be held:

Wednesday, December 3, 2025 at 5:30pm at the Audubon Library, Community Room 1

2026 meeting dates will be scheduled.

L). Adjournment

Motion to approve by David Saia, seconded by Jeffrey Voelkl.

All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 6:43 pm