



Board of Directors

Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Officers Present: President Dave Hempson, Vice President Katie Armijo, Secretary Kathryn Carlson, Treasurer Maura Molnar

Trustees: Manny Arroyo, Karen Bedard, Ralph DeMasi, Jennifer Feeney, Kristin LaBeau, Bob Lotkowitz, Stephen McClintic, Larry Palmieri, Cristina Pietropaoli, Amy Roller, Meghann Sandak, Paul Torrissi, Jr.

Staff: Library Director Nickie Marquis, Assistant Director and Adult Services Librarian Andrea Snyder, Campaign Director Erin McCormack

Absent: Susanne Guske

Members of the Public: none

Call to order at 7:27 pm

Public Comment Period – It was noted that Dimitri Tohtz, the young man who observed the annual meeting, donated \$148 to the new library building project.

Approval of the Minutes – Minutes were approved from the Library Board meeting held on December 10, 2025

President's Report

President Hempson announced there would be a formal new trustee on-boarding session and all were invited to attend. Possibilities were January 22, 23 or 27.

Library Director's Report

Director Marquis referred to her written report, and commented that Assistant Director Snyder would be attending Advocacy Day in Albany and would report back next month. Movies in January, February and March will be matinees and will be classic films. Trustee Lotkowitz appreciated the in-depth charts of attendance at events, and it will be included each month henceforth.

Financials

Treasurer Molnar reported that the first quarter financials are good. The operations reserves are high due to the tax revenue. Investments are down a bit this month. There was \$8,000 income in December, largely from the Dickens book sale. Thank you to amazing volunteers. Friends of the Library also contributed to that number.

The capital campaign increased by \$63K in December. Expenses were \$61K.

Treasurer Molnar explained that most association libraries, of which we are one, get a portion of their operating budget from a public tax levy, which must be approved by voters. In our case, the tax levy is voted on by residents of our school district at the same time as the school district's budget vote. Last month the board voted to approve a possible override of the tax cap. This month the board is asked to consider a ballot proposition to increase the annual tax levy appropriation for the library. Most association libraries in this area

use the levy to fund 90+% of their operating costs. We did not ask for taxpayer money until 2016. We are covering about 73% of our expenses, which increase every year due to increases in the minimum wage and other salaries and benefits, and inflation. Two years ago the finance committee recommended the board ask for \$25K increases each year for three years. Last year the vote was 69% in favor of the increase. The increase this year will cover 78% of our operating budget. The increase will raise taxes on a \$400K house by \$5, to \$78 a year.

Upon a motion made by Trustee Palmieri and seconded by Trustee Sandak and approved unanimously, It was resolved that, pursuant to section 259 of the Education Law, the Board of Trustees of the Skaneateles Library Association proposes the submission of the following question to the voters of the Skaneateles Central School District at the annual meeting of the Skaneateles Central School District to be held on May 20, 2025:

Shall the sum to be raised by annual levy of a tax upon the taxable real property within the Skaneateles Central School District for the purpose of funding the Skaneateles Library Association be increased by \$25,000 to the sum of \$428,560 annually?

Communication Committee

Trustee Bedard reported that work continues on articles for the Stroll and other media. The microsite work needs a new developer and she will work with the fund-raising group to find a new developer and create the website for the campaign.

Barrow Art Gallery Update

Trustee Roller reported that she is meeting in person on Thursday with the new attorney. She will urge them to speed up their work on the separation agreement

Fennell Street New Building Committee

President Hempson reported that the design development work is essentially done and he will email the latest designs to the Trustees. He reported that the geotechnical survey found that the water table was too high to realistically do a basement, so the new design has the west wall moved out to gain 800 feet of space on the main floor.

He also referred to the recently finalized AIA contract with our Architects. They have been working so far without a contract. This contract has been thoroughly reviewed by our attorney and President Hempson recommends it be approved. A motion was made by Trustee Lotkowitz and seconded by Trustee DeMasi that we approve the contract as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

A contract with the construction managers will be forthcoming at a later date.

President Hempson recommends that we start on construction documents so as to keep the present team of subcontractors intact. We have funds available to do this. The cost is approximately \$500K. Trustee Bedard made a motion and Trustee Lotkowitz seconded that we approve the development of construction documents as presented by President Hempson. The motion was approved unanimously.

Public comment - none

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm.

The next meeting is Tuesday February 11, 2025 at 6:30 pm at the library