



## Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting

**Date:** 05/22/2025

**Location:** Library Community Room

### **Trustees Attending in person:**

Gary Sheffer (President), Dani French (Vice President), Jim Kelly (Secretary), Patty Brennan (Treasurer), Aaron Able, Jessica Almeleh-Frazer, Sharon Javna, Ryan Kelly, Jared Muehlbauer, Carol Pledger, Kelley Robinson, Heather Thiry

**Excused:** Miranda Barry, Joseph Ferris, Sean Gilleran, Kellen Henry, Sherry Jo Williams

**Absent:** Wesley Brown

**Staff Attending:** Emily Chameides (Director)

**Others Attending:** N/A

Meeting was called to order by Gary Sheffer at 06:00 pm. He welcomed trustees.

*A motion to approve the April minutes was made by Ryan Kelly and seconded by Patty Brennan. Vote to approve minutes was unanimous.*

## **Reports**

### **President's Report: Gary Sheffer**

Gary reminded trustees to please not forget about their trustee education requirements. Completed courses in Niche academy are saved in your profile on that site. You can also submit completed course certificates to Emily, and we have a board spreadsheet of Trustee education requirement status to input your course completion directly into. Our next monthly board meeting will be Thursday, June 26 at 6pm. Gary noted to keep looking at the federal and state library funding updates for and to take advantage of opportunities to advocate for libraries.

### **Treasurer's Report: Patty Brennan**

Through April, we collected 72% of our annual budgeted operating income and spent 26% of our budgeted operating expenses. In income, total receipts were \$22,004 for the month. Total Expenses were \$65,974 for the month. Notable income for the month in Restricted Grants: Berkshire Taconic \$6,000 (Hey DJ Program), in Unrestricted Grants: Berkshire Taconic \$7,500, Martha McMaster & Sheldon Evans (Donor advised fund from longtime library supporters) \$3,500. Notable in Expenses for the Month: in account Furniture/Fixtures Expenses: Remaining balance of payment to S&F Technologies for security system updates \$1,676.84. Patty and Emily opened the 2 previously approved CD accounts and one money market account (in the event that any at hand cash is needed).

*A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's Report by Jim Kelly and seconded by Carol Pledger. Vote to approve the report was unanimous.*

*A motion was made to approve the Profit & Loss Statement by Dani French and seconded by Jared Muehlbauer. Vote to approve the report was unanimous.*

**Director's Report: Emily Chameides**

Emily is working with the team to cover the duties of a staff member on medical leave. Two AmeriCorps workers are leaving the library next week due to funding cuts and were working in the library's children's section. Existing staff and volunteers may help cover some of the staffing loss there. MHLS Road Trip is upcoming - the idea is to encourage visitation of libraries throughout the region. If you are using the new library app and have any feedback on ways to improve the app experiences feel free to let Emily know.

*IMLS staff is going back to work to distribute funds. There will be more advocacy efforts upcoming. In State advocacy updates, the NYS Senate passed 2 bills - the Open Shelves bill (public libraries) and Freedom to Read (school libraries) bill that encourage diverse library collections. State advocacy efforts are also in progress to advocate for a Cultural Education Real Estate tax increase to support the New York State Library should federal funding be cut. In upcoming Trustee Education local/in-person opportunities, there is one at the Roe Jan library in August and one at Philmont in October. If there is anything urgent in the next two weeks please email or contact Tracy or the main desk (Emily will be out of office for the next two weeks)*

**History Room: Gary Sheffer (for Sherry Jo Williams)**

On May 17, there was a successful teacher workshop on the whaling exhibit. On September 4, we are hoping to host a dramatic reading of whaling letters, if you know anyone interested let the History Room know. On May 29, at 6pm the Enduring Impact of the Palatine Migration on Columbia County. Thursday June 12, at 6pm at the library will be an event celebrating the LGBTQ+ collection at the library.

**Ghostly Gallop: Ryan Kelly**

Dani and Ryan had a planning meeting, *the race site is now live* and we will send out a message to prior year racers with registration information (targeting a month earlier than last year), the committee will kick off in June and still needs interested members.

The Wednesday prior to the Pride parade at 6pm we will have a poster making session.

**Gala: Jessica Almeleh**

We are planning to raise the ticket price from \$150 to \$200. We are hoping to get the Save the Date out next week. Lisa Dolan accepted to be honored at the Gala. We thought about having individuals come up and share a bit about their experiences in the library, maybe someone from the book club, tai chi, children's events, teachers, parents, family, etc. We are working on a theme for the invitations and generally.

**Programming: Emily Chameides (for Kellen Henry)**

Programming had a successful tote bag design for summer reading activity. Summer reading kicks off early July. The Fix It picnic has been popular and helpful for our community.

**414: Gary Sheffer (for Joseph Ferris)**

*We are considering messaging and outreach to community members more broadly related to our funding without an upcoming 414 initiative and what that may look like in a committee and how it fits in with fundraising with an emphasis on social numbers and storytelling out in the community on a regular basis.*

**Long Range Planning temporary Committee: Gary Sheffer**

*The temporary Long Range Planning Committee in the past month spoke about finishing the plan by the March annual meeting and hopefully having something in hand and ideas of where we are going earlier so*

*that we can use that vision and messaging in the annual drive.*

*We were discussing the vision and mission statement for the library* and will send out an email linking a document where board members can suggest any improvements or alterations to our current vision/mission statements.

**Friends of the Hudson Area Library Report: Gary Sheffer (for Joseph Ferris)**

The fundraiser for the Friends occurred Tuesday night at Neverstill Wines and had more than 30 attendees.

The Friends will be meeting every third Tuesday at 6pm. Billy was re-elected as president and they are looking for vice president and secretary nominations.

**New Business/Public Comments**

None

*Motion to adjourn was made at 06:48 pm by Carol Pledger and seconded by Patty Brennan. Vote to adjourn was passed unanimously.*

Jim Kelly, 05 22 2025
<b>Recording Secretary</b>

06 26 2025
<b>Date of approval</b>