

Hazard Library Association Board of Trustees Meeting

Opendore, Sherwood, NY

Monday, April 14, 2025

Board members present: President Nancy Hart, Connie Rejman, Betsy Donald, Pat Berry, Sonjia Turner Kathie Garnsey, Bess Simkin

Excused: Patricia Covert

Staff present: Lisa Semenza

Guests present :None

Meeting held at Opendore.

The meeting was called to order at 5 PM by President Nancy Hart.

Secretary –Kathie Garnsey (interim secretary)

- The minutes of March 10, 2025 were reviewed and discussed
- Motion made to accept: Bess / Connie - passed

Treasurer's Report

- Patricia still has not received word whether or not Cayhill and Knobel will perform bookkeeping and tax auditing services.
- Total assets remain the same.
- Motion to accept budget: Betsy, Connie

Librarian Report

- Reviewed report, see attached
- The grant for Phase II has been withdrawn by the Library since the library cannot show any proof that work has been started. Will need to reapply later in the summer.
- Trustees must complete two hours of training annually, in addition to sexual harassment training. Trustee training in the form of Trustee Handbook Book Club can be found at <https://midhudson.org/trusteebookclub/>. Sexual harassment training can be found on FLLS website: <https://www.flls.org/hr/>

New Business

- Larry Liberatore agreed to provide consulting services during the construction project.
- Motion to retain Larry as clerk of the works: Pat/Betsy - approved
- Lisa has applied to Outreach Mini Grant because there is not as much Rosen funding available this year. This grant would target the Summer Reading Academy in collaboration with SCCS.

- All trustees signed a conflict of interest form.
- Discussed changes to bylaws:
 1. Increased allowable consecutive terms from 2 to 3.
 2. Any board member can nominate a potential member.
 3. Meetings will be held at a mutually agreed upon location.

Next Meeting

- Monday May 12 at 6:30 PM at Opendore
- Meeting was adjourned at 6:12 PM

Respectfully submitted
Kathie Garnsey, acting Secretary

Library Director's Report

(Lisa Semenza)

April 14, 2025

March 19 – Joint Operating Committee meeting held at Opendore. Attendees included HLA : Lisa Semenza and Nancy Hart (Patricia Covert was unavailable) and HSSM : Guy Garnsey, Andy Simkin, and Lorrie Butcher. (see attached minutes for details).

March 25 – Monthly UPK Story Time at Emily Howland with rain theme.

April 2 – Southern Cayuga Book Club met at Aurora Library to discuss “How to Say Babylon” by Safiya Sinclair with 13 people in attendance.

April 8 – Doug’s Fish Fry. Not sure how well we did considering the weather.

April 8 – Book giveaway for all Emily Howland students leading into Spring Break. Nancy covered Story Hour.

April 10 – Director meeting with Sarah Glogowski

STATE/FEDERAL UPDATES

State Budget

- Budget has not been passed as of right now, they aim for April 1 every year.
- Governor said she’s not in a rush. Predicting late April or early May due to the fact that they have to pass budget extenders to pay state workers.
- Delay is due to crime issues, bail reform, etc.
- Will now tie into federal funding because of recent events.
- **REMINDER:** FLLS and member libraries are not funded through the federal government. Federal grants and E-rate could be affected.
- NYLA still working to get other library-related acts to pass legislature.

New York State Library (NYSL)

- Due to executive order by president and closure of Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), NYSL most likely losing \$8.1M.

- NYSL runs library and archive for the legislature and all of NYS. Those employees are safe.
- Department of Library Development (DLD) would be eliminated except for State Librarian Lauren Moore and a senior staff member. All liaisons that FLLS works with for annual reports, construction grants, summer reading, youth services, etc. would be gone.
- They cannot advocate for themselves so relying on NYLA, public library system directors, and regional library councils to write letters and contact legislature/governor.
 - Specifically asking for Cultural Education Fee on real estate transactions increased by \$5, could cover funding loss.

Legal Responses

- Letitia James, NYS Attorney General, has joined 20 other states in suing federal government to stop dismantling of IMLS and other agencies.
- ACLU and ALA have also filed lawsuits to stop actions against IMLS.

April 12 – Spoke to representative from grant committee regarding “Outreach Mini Grant”. Because we only received 60% of requested funding from Rosen Grant Hazard and Aurora Libraries are applying to OMG (and possibly to FLLS Family Literacy Grant). Our OMG is focusing on “Summer Reading Academy” (teachers tutoring students who are struggling readers with tie in to come to library for science activities and to get books). Aurora’s OMG rolled together all of the food pantry outreach. Rosen is targeted for Library Summer Reading activities and school year activities in conjunction with Emily Howland.

April 12-19 – School closed for Spring Break. Spring crafts set up at the library during all open hours and all patrons are invited to participate in “egg hunt” to get a treat.

April 14 – Librarian meet-up at Seymour Library in Auburn.

Upcoming

April 17 – Summer Reading Meeting at FLLS. Lisa and Kathy are attending.

Updates on Building project

- After discussion with Sarah Glogowski and the state, we needed to pull our 2024 construction grant due to lack of progress on actually building phase 1. We were unable to show them pictures of work that had already been completed and did not have definite budget information and timelines to give them. We will resubmit in September 2025 once we have a better grasp on how things are proceeding.
- Complete construction and bid documents have been received from the architect. Nancy has been in contact with contractors and some came to visit the Opendore site. Two contractors (and possibly Bouley) are interested in pursuing the project. They have been able to get copies of the documents and we will meet with them and Julia on **Thurs, 4/24**

to answer any questions. We anticipate opening bids and choosing a contractor on **Wed 5/7**.

- Jeff Lampman has been in touch with HSSM regarding tree removal. Opendore volunteers will be removing slate and working with Jeff to ensure the beech trees are removed safely in regard to existing structures.
- Larry Liberatore has sent us a “Letter of Understanding” (**needs to be discussed and approved**) for providing “Consulting Services” (see attached). We are hoping to meet with him this coming week to review procedural items related to the bidding process (General Conditions of the Contract for Construction, Owner-Architect-Contractor roles and responsibilities, procedures for payment to the contractor, submittals, changes during construction, substantial completion and close out requirements)