

Northern New York Library Network  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
November 21, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 AM.

**Trustees Present:** Justin Cree, Emily Hastings, Amy Bedard, Jessica Clemons, Paulette Roes, Cori Wilhelm, Edward Komara, Jill Daby, Allison Comes, John Payne, Michael Spofford, Sarah Weisman

**Trustees Absent:** Ellen Adams, Jackie Madison

**Staff Present:** Meg Backus, Jennifer Thomas

### Agenda

**Motion 24/25 - - 15:** Jill Daby (Sarah Weisman) moved to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

### Minutes

**Motion 24/25 - - 16:** Michael Spofford (Emily Hastings) moved to approve the September 27, 2024 meeting minutes. Corrections to be made under Motion 24/25 - - 8 and Motion 24/25 -- 12 to change "reclusion" to "recusal". Motion carried unanimously.

### Financial Reports

The Board reviewed and discussed the financial reports as presented by Jennifer Thomas for September and October 2024. Meg requested a reallocation of \$5,000 from the Continuing Education budget to Gross Salaries to account for professional training being developed in-house.

**Motion 24/25 -- 17:** Emily Hastings (Michael Spofford) moved to reduce the Continuing Education budget to \$13,000 and increase the Gross Salary budget by \$5,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial reports were received as presented for filing by Board.

### Resolution to Receive Connect NY Assets

WHEREAS, the library consortium known as ConnectNY is petitioning to dissolve and has offered that NNYLN be the sole recipient of its assets;

BE IT RESOLVED that NNYLN hereby agrees to formally accept ConnectNY's fund balance following ConnectNY's dissolution.

**Motion 24/25- - 18:** Amy Bedard (Jill Daby) moved to accept the resolution to receive Connect NY's assets. Discussion ensued and a new motion was presented. No vote was called for.

### Amended Resolution

WHEREAS, the library consortium known as ConnectNY is petitioning to dissolve and has offered that NNYLN be the sole recipient of its assets;

BE IT RESOLVED that NNYLN hereby agrees to formally accept ConnectNY's fund balance following ConnectNY's dissolution, with the understanding that this creates no additional obligations or liabilities for NNYLN.

**Motion 24/25- - 19:** Jill Daby (Sarah Weisman) moved to approve the resolution to receive Connect NY Assets with language to clarify that NNYLN does not accept any outstanding debts or liabilities of Connect NY. Motion carried unanimously with 12 Yes votes and 0 noes.

### Director's Report

Meg Backus noted her written report was included in the Board Packet. Members discussed several items. Highlights included:

- *Libraries in Community Systems* grant funding is nearly all expended. We may continue to circulate products and findings from that research using NNYLN resources, if it serves our members and by extension, all libraries.
- Queens Public Library will be the lead applicant on an NEH project to digitize NY newspapers for Library of Congress's Chronicling America. NNYLN will contract to do the project management.
- Professional Development Grants awarded to
  - Mackenzie Davison, Colton-Pierrepont Central School librarian, \$1400 toward library degree
  - Katie Zehr, Carthage Central School District- Carthage Elementary, \$1400 toward library degree
- *LAMs Advance Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging* grant program launched, will award \$500–\$3,000 per selected project for members doing work in their communities to recognize and serve populations that may be increasingly targeted or disempowered. Suggestion to shorten the name to *Advancing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging*, or even to rearrange the word order to create acronym ABIDE.
- October and November CE programs included Fall meeting at SUNY Potsdam (42 attendees—hybrid), Disaster planning (190 registrants/103 live attendees), NYLA conference presentation on NYSHN, Archives/Digitization series developed in-house (over 50 registrants each session), and a PD grant recipient presenting a talk about overcoming divisions between academic and public librarianship.
- Advocacy proposal under discussion among 3Rs councils for a special line item in the next state budget to provide additional funds (~\$750K) for PR to boost visibility of cultural organizations. This would be separate from current library aid.
- NNYLN is now charged property taxes on 7 Commerce Lane. The new lease offered to current tenant increases the monthly rent from \$2,300 to \$2,700.
- A new Plan of Service covering 2026-2031 is expected to be due to NYS April 2026.

The status of Samaritan Medical Center library programming was addressed by Meg. She noted a new library manager is in place and services will continue with the hopes of adding a remote librarian to provide additional support for services.

**Motion 24/25- - 20:** Jill Daby (Amy Bedard) moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:18am. Motion approved unanimously.

Next Meeting is Thursday, January 16, 2025 via Zoom at 10:00am.

Additional meeting dates for FY 2024-25

- Thursday, Mar 20, 2025; Zoom, 10:00 a.m.
- Thursday, May 15, 2025; TBD

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer M Thomas