

**Northern New York Library Network
Board of Trustees Meeting
May 7, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 8:51AM.

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

Staff Present: Meg Backus, Jennifer Thomas

Agenda

Motion 24/25 - - 30: Sarah Weisman (Cori Wilhelm) moved to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes

Motion 24/25 - - 31: Sarah Weisman (Cori Wilhelm) moved to approve the March 20, 2025, meeting minutes. It was noted that Jill Daby was present at the meeting but missing from the attendees in minutes. The minutes will be corrected to add her to the list of trustees present. Motion carried unanimously.

NNYRC Reports

Meg provided a summary report to the board noting that the minutes for the April 17, 2025, NNYRC Board of Directors meeting were included in the board packet. The NNYRC board has decided to move the corporation's investments from The Simmons Group to the Northern New York Community Foundation (NNYCF).

The directors determined that the Foundation's goals and values are better aligned with the Resource Corporation's (and by extension, NNYLN's) desired impacts and values. A comparison of fees and historical performance show good financial outcomes from a move as well. The board thanked Meg for her research and communication.

Financial Reports

The Board reviewed and discussed the financial reports as presented by Jennifer Thomas for March 2025. Financial reports were received as presented for filing by the Board.

Member Grant Awards

Meg presented the 25-26 Grant Review summary and recommendations. Five grant applications were received. Each was reviewed and discussed and recommended for funding as follows:

1. SUNY Oswego and its Penfield Library, *Preserving The Oswegonian 2010-2025*, \$3,318
2. Historic Saranac Lake, *Preservation of Audiovisual Materials*, \$6,790
3. Massena Public Library, *Growing Community Health*, \$3,200
4. Frederic Remington Art Museum, *Permanent Collection Preservation and Access Project*, \$12,000
5. Samaritan Medical Center, *Samaritan Historical Preservation Project*, \$10,900

Motion 24/25 - - 31: Cori Wilhelm (Michael Spofford) moved to commit funding to the grants for 2025-26. Motion was approved with 13 yeas and 1 recusal (Sarah Weisman).

FY 25-26 Budget

Meg presented the 2025-26 Proposed Budget as reviewed and recommended by the Budget and Finance Committee on April 29, 2025. The budget proposed that Auto Projects and Research Support revenue and expenses be removed from Purpose-Defined funds and become part of the operating budget, member dues be increased beginning July 1, 2025, as approved by the committee on April 29, 2025 and funding for a new full-time staff position be included.

Motion 24/25 - - 32: Jackie Madison (Amy Bedard) moved to add the full-time position, Special Collections Consultant as described in the job description provided in the board packet. The board discussed the benefit to members this position would bring. Motion was approved unanimously.

Motion 24/25 - - 33: Justin Cree (Michael Spofford) moved to approve the 25-26 proposed budgets. A recommendation was made that the board review member dues, annually or bi-annually and increase appropriately. The motion was approved unanimously.

FY 25-26 Hospital Grants

Meg provided a summary of Hospital Grants for FY 25-26 with allocations of \$45,042 for CVPH and \$83,976 reserved for Samaritan Medical Center, ending the submission of their application for this grant funding.

Motion 24/25 - - 34: Michael Spofford (Amy Bedard) moved to approve the 25-26 Hospital Grants. The motion passed with 13 yeas and 1 recusal (Jill Daby).

Executive Director's Report

Meg Backus noted her written report was included in the Board Packet. Highlights included:

- An ESLN contract with Candid will give all members a subscription to Foundation Directory, a significant database of grants from private foundations as well as public sources.
- North Country Consortium of History and Heritage orgs to convene under NNYLN guidance. A subset of orgs will gather for a New York Archives Conference Watch Party we'll be hosting.
- Visits to members continue, an effort by Amy Dickinson to connect directly with people in our region. North Country Public Library systems to meet with us at our office, in person on June 17, 2025.
- Summer program at HSL: Monday, July 21, from 10:30am - 1pm, NNYLN Members are invited to tour Historic Saranac Lake's newly renovated Trudeau Building Museum expansion.
- Summer Program at John Brown Farm: Saturday, August 16, from 8:30-9:00am, NNYLN members are invited to a special pre-festival meet-up with authors featured in the Adirondack Family Book Festival.
- Together with ESLN directors, sent letters supporting an increase to the \$15.00 cultural education fee imposed on real estate transaction in NYS, which funds the Office of Cultural Ed (and therefore NY State Library).
- Letters and calls to congressional delegation continue re: opposing the effort to dismantle the Institute for Museum and Library Services. Background and specific regional impacts supplied to reporter Aaron Cerbone from the *ADK Enterprise* for a story that ran 4/22/25: <https://www.adirondackdailyenterprise.com/news/local-news/2025/04/local-museums-and-libraries-prepare-for-federal-grant-drought/>
- State Budget missed 5/1/25 deadline; is still not passed.
- Our two intellectual freedom bills (Freedom to Read for school environments and Open Shelves for public settings) are getting traction, expected to move soon in the Senate. NYSUT, NYCLU, and Penguin Random House have met with NYLA and proposed amendments to the Freedom to Read and Open Shelves Acts that some members of the coalition of support feel would make the bills stronger. One is to codify the Miller Test (3-prong obscenity test) in law for Freedom to Read, and another is to specify protected classes as deserving collections, services and programming rather than to say collections will reflect the interests of all people of the community.
- D&O Insurance in place, with Travelers through our broker at OneGroup, \$433 annually.
- State Report (FY 23-24) approved.

Meeting adjourned at 9:48am by Board President, Ellen Adams

Next Meeting is Thursday, July 28, 2025 at 1pm via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer M Thomas