

Northern New York Library Network
Board of Trustees Meeting
November 20, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 10:03am.

Trustees Present: Amy Bedard, Jessica Clemons, Allison Comes, Justin Cree, Emily Owen-Hastings, Sarah Jennette, Edward Komara, Jackie Madison, Chessie Monks-Kelly, John Payne, Paulette Roes, Michael Spofford, Sarah Weisman, Cori Wilhelm

Staff Present: Meg Backus, Jennifer Thomas

Agenda

Motion 25/26--11: John Payne (Amy Bedard) moved to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes

Motion 25/26--12: Amy Bedard (Paulette Roes) moved to approve the September 25, 2025 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Reports: September and October 2025

The Board reviewed and discussed the financial reports as presented by Jennifer Thomas. Jennifer noted updates needed on balance sheet. Financial reports were received by the board as presented for filing with the corrected balance sheet.

NNYRC Performance Summary

Meg presented a summary of the investments now being managed by the Northern New York Community Foundation balances from July 1, 2025 to the end of the third quarter. Performance is strong and fees are lower. She noted with moving the funds to the foundation the activity of the board of directors should be reviewed to address possible changes to the By-laws, meeting dates, and activities of the board. Meg will follow up with the board of directors to discuss and review possible changes.

Massena Museum Membership Application

Meg presented the application and reviewed Section V. Membership from the Bylaws. She suggested that the Bylaws be reviewed and possibly edited to define more clearly the eligibility and benefits of membership and associate membership.

Motion 25/26 –13: Chessie Monks-Kelly (Emily Hastings) moved to allow a committee to be formed to edit the Bylaws propose changes to the membership for a vote. Discussion followed and board members determined a committee should first present proposed changes to the full board before going to the membership for approval. Chessie Monks-Kelly retracted the motion.

Chessie Monks-Kelly, Jackie Madison and John Payne agreed to serve as members of a committee to suggest changes to the board.

Executive Director's Report

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

- NEH Grant – all parties were notified the project will not be going forward.
- Exploring digital asset management/display solutions for membership. Looking first at JSTOR Digital Stewardship Services.
- Special Collections Grant to Samaritan will be granted 1-yr extension to accommodate delay related to DHPSONY assessment.
- Four additional requests for Professional Development grants were requested since the September board meeting. One for MLIS coursework support will be awarded.

Discussion of grants budget and priorities ensued. Current priorities are to offer grants to those pursuing MLIS degree programs and collaborative inquiry groups. Funds for travel have been allocated for FY25-26. Travel award criteria will be reviewed for FY 26-27.

- A resource created by the Disaster Preparedness Collaborative Inquiry group was published in the new NYS Handbook for Library Directors.
- Creating Access through Archival Description, our in-house training series, is in demand. Feedback is extremely positive.
- Working on a series of screenings around the region of “The Librarians” to build support for libraries and awareness of experiences with recent censorship efforts. Watertown, Lake Placid, Plattsburgh, Potsdam, and Sarah Weisman offered Oswego in discussion. Collaborating with many partners.

- Plan of Service – input is being gathered from members. Draft to be presented at the January 22 Board meeting, in time to be submitted to the state by the April 1, 2026 deadline.

2025-2026 Meeting Dates:

Thursday, January 22, 2026 ; via Zoom, 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, March 19, 2026; via Zoom, 10:00 a.m.

May 2026, in-person, at annual member meeting in Lake Placid, NY. Date TBD.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:38am.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer M Thomas