

Almond Library Board of Trustees

Meeting for March 2026

Thursday, 26 March 2026

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Elva Owlet, President; Linda Staiger, Vice President; Cole DiGerlando, Secretary; Bec Cronk, Director of Programs; Connor Dirlam, Director of Internal Operations; Philip Schierer, Trustee; Lee Berry, Treasurer; Kathleen Conklin, Almond Town Historian

Meeting called to order at 6:37 pm

Minutes from February meeting reviewed; *Linda moved to accept the minutes; Elva seconded; all approved*

Director's Reports

Connor's February/March report

(see submitted numbers and report)

- Massive increase in programing from January until now
- No real movement on the Annual Report from STLS yet
- Connor's brother has agreed to help Connor update the website for ADA compliance
- STLS is pushing for more libraries to sign up for Talking Books and Braille Library (TBBL); Connor signed up for the program; looking for a place to keep it
- ICE meeting wasn't overly informative: questions came up; Bec said that if ICE shows up, directors are not allowed to record, so would have to declare they are on a break; some libraries have "authorized personnel only" spaces where agents wouldn't be allowed to go; we don't have that private space; questions have come up over patron privacy—directors obligated to preserve patron privacy; advised to have good relations with local law enforcement, but we have no local force (NYS troopers, Allegany Co. sheriff); Bec said if there was ever an issue that was grey, she would call the STLS lawyer for advice
- Seeking input on issue of labeling books; since we already are, Elva thinks we should continue; Lee is concerned about how far labeling goes; Connor said that they focus mostly on the main story line; pretty much all in agreement on maintaining the labeling

Linda motioned to accept; Lee seconded; all approved.

Bec's February report

(see submitted report)

- Second session of the Cornell Cooperative Gardening date is tentative; waiting on confirmation; Elva asked about having scouts build beds for the garden; Bec is in favor of that and said part of the money could come from the grant she has written; Lee thought maybe some Portal Burn money as well
- Ralph Wilson grant is Allegany Co. specific, and came up fast, so challenging for us to do it solo; Brian has organized the Allegany Co. STLS libraries to work together for the grant; will be promoting outdoor activity; Bec submitted \$4000 worth of outdoor recreational equipment that would be part of this grant; many of these would be considered LoT and will be used in-house and then available to patrons; there was some discussion about getting an event tent in the future; Bec said there might be more funding opportunities upcoming
- Bec invited to AA for STEM day, will be tabling with Melanie from BoB for Earth Day
- Local DAR is doing a big project for a (war) monument in Angelica, including fundraising; Allegany Co. libraries have several ways to participate, including donating money—Bec doesn't think we can do that—so other ways: they will be selling cookbooks; can purchase one for circulation, and put it up for display and share with patrons where/how to purchase them; locally, the Canacadea store will be selling them
- PTO request for April
- May 30 is a Pride event in Wellsville; Bec has a baby shower; so either needs coverage for the library or to close; Elva thinks she can cover, and will let us know if she can; Bec says we will plan to be open unless Elva can't do it

Motion to approve made by Cole; seconded by Philip; all approved

Bookkeeper's Report February/March

(see submitted Financial Report)

- Electric bill was super high, but everything else seems to be going well

Motion to approve made by Linda, seconded by Philip; all approved

Old Business

- Budget Vote Update: just talked to Alison; will be meeting with Superintendent; met with new secretary; will be getting the paperwork on the day she goes for registration and will make copies of the things that help keep track (these are not official); can still use the

books and write that they are conducting a library vote; want to ask if can set aside the second or third Tuesday in June every year to hold this vote yearly so can get on the schedule regularly; Melanie has started process of getting information out to people; Elva and Bec were talking about the advertisement—Alison said BoB used Every Day Direct Mail, not sure of the cost, and want to create an 8.5 x 11 sheet so can advertise what folks need to do; Bec will look into Alfred State printing in comparison to the print shop at Houghton—will start by checking in with Melanie; some discussion about who would receive our mailer; Lee asked if he would, and we discussed that BoB covers Alfred Station, but we do need to look into which local regions in the district would not be receiving the mailer

- Office of Aging representative mentioned to Elva about older folks who can't get out to libraries would like to get books delivered to their homes; Bec said that she would be willing to do that; some discussion of being proactive in promoting that patrons could request delivery; if we develop this, would need to create a policy; Bec will look into how other libraries might be doing this program
- Will borrow same box from Watkins Glen for the voting box; have to keep the ballots for a year, so will have to store last year's ballots somewhere until the end of the month
- Linda: Murder Mystery recap: messaged the cast and other folks to get feedback; Linda now has enough people to contact ahead of time and assign cast members rather than waiting until the last minute when people arrive; some of the actors have trouble translating the directions to speech; will set up two run-throughs in the future for actors to get better acquainted with the character; will need to set up the play list sooner and double check accuracy; would like to add more costuming—has already started adding to the collection; Connor thought we might want to write our own play; main question is about should we do a second play—last October tried but had to let it go; Bec suggested a summer program because it could appeal to a different group of people; comes back to other conversations: could we do it outside? Could we make it more family friendly? Consensus that we might give it a try this summer; Bec said if we could find that had an archeology theme and tie it in to summer reading in August; Linda will put out some feelers; Bec recommended we need a date asap
- Cole heard back from Jessica the painter who would be interested in potentially painting the upstairs wall; Cole sent the info to Bec

New Business

- Need to schedule evaluations of directors in April; Bec prefers Tuesday 4/21 or 4/28; Connor prefers 4/21, so will do evaluations of both directors on 4/21
- Bylaws meeting between Elva, Lee and Philip; Lee sent notes, but need to meet in person; need to set up time in April for them to meet and hash things out; Philip is available on Monday, 4/6; Lee is free and so is Elva; will meet at 4:00
- Cole mentioned that it would be great to register the Little Free Library box; cost is \$55 for a lifetime charter number, the library then goes on the app and gives us free advertising; *Cole motioned to officially charter our LFL box for the cost of \$55; Linda seconded; all approved*

April meeting to be held on April 30 at 6:30 pm

Philip made motion to adjourn; Cole seconded; all approved; meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm