

Minutes Are DRAFT Until
Approved at the Next Board
Meeting

John C. Hart Memorial Library
1130 Main Street
Shrub Oak, New York 10588

Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, August 19, 2026

Present: Cathy Bahan (Member-at-Large), Yvonne Cech (Library Director), Barry Erenberg (Treasurer), Kathy Law-Imperato (President), Jean Zappia (Vice President)

Absent with notice: Laura Tropp (Secretary)

The public meeting began at 6:04 P.M.

Public Comment Period-No comments

REGULAR BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes-Approved without changes

Treasurer's Report

The Board reviewed the Treasurer's report. The library's tax filing, due in November, is being worked on. No update from Investment Committee.

Approvals of Invoices & Expense Ledger

The Board approved invoices listed on 7/13, 7/14, 7/20, 7/21, 7/29, 8/4, 8/7, 8/12. The Board also approved expenses and encumbrances on the expense ledger dated August 6.

Director's Report

The Board discussed the upcoming main floor renovation, which will begin in late September. Plans are being formulated to minimize service disruptions. The library received a generous donation from the Poster family to fund an interior reading lounge in memory of Michael and Carol Poster. Ongoing town misunderstanding of library Trustees' fiduciary responsibility under Education Law is impacting productivity. Communications with the town Finance Department about transferring funds between 2026 budget lines in order to cover under-budgeted expenses (sewer taxes,

telecommunications, overtime, professional services, etc.) required 5 hours of director time over the course of 10 days. The Trustees look forward to clarity concerning this issue once the library's Education Law attorney confers with the town attorney.

Friends of the Library Update

The Friends have a huge selection of books ready for the fall book sale, which will take place from September 25-28. They will not be accepting book donations during September and October.

New Business

2027 Operating Budget

The Trustees approved a draft 2027 Operating Budget, which has been forwarded to the town for review and discussion.

Policy: Library Legacy Property

The building that houses the John C. Hart Memorial Library, the property on which it sits, and a Library Green Space across Route 6, were left to Yorktown for the exclusive purpose of creating and benefiting a public library. The Trustees approved a policy to confirm their responsibility to steward the property for the library and the community. See details [here](#).

WLS Free Direct Access Plan

The Trustees approved Westchester Library System's 2027-2031 plan for providing countywide free library services.

Trustee Resignation

The Trustees voted to accept the resignation of Trustee and President, Kathy Law-Imperato, effective August 31, 2026.

Old Business

Capital Campaign – No update

MOU/Lease with Town of Yorktown

Discussions are ongoing.

Application for 2027 NY State Matching Grant

Trustees approved an application for a 2027 NY State Construction Matching Grant to cover window and skylight replacement, as well as installing acoustical treatments to reduce noise level in the building.

Charter amendment to increase number of Trustees -No update

Wetland Survey-No update

Connection to town sewer -No update

Branding Committee Report – Moved to September

Town request to locate food scrap collection containers at library -No update

Resolution to authorize director to execute contracts-Postponed to September

Executive Session

The Trustees entered Executive Session at 7:21 P.M. to consider candidate qualifications leading to appointment of a Library Trustee to fill the remainder of Kathy Law-Imperato's term. Yvonne Cech, Library Director, was invited to participate. No action was taken. They concluded the Executive Session at 7:28 P.M.

Election of Trustee

The Trustees elected Cathey Richey to a four-year term, effective September 1, to replace resigning Trustee Kathy Law-Imperato. She will begin her term as Member-at-Large.

Adjournment-7:35 P.M.