

MID-HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM
MINUTES of the BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Friday, September 12, 2025

President Ramage called the meeting to order at 10:05am at the Beekman Library.

1. ROLL CALL AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustees Present: Stuart Auchincloss, Peter Carey, Kevin Finnegan, Leslie Gerber, Kenneth Goldberg, Charles Kutcher, Jill Leinung, Jenny Post, Barry Ramage, Janet Schnitzer, Thomas Silvious, Barbara Swanson, Carla Taylor, Mark Williams

Trustees Absent: Rajene Hardeman

Directors Association Liaison: Carol Fortier, Beekman Library

Staff Present: Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, James Coyle, Laura Crisci, Laurie Sheldrick, Elinor Levy

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President's report

President Ramage

- Thanked Carol Fortier, Director of the Beekman Library for hosting the board meeting;
- Encouraged all board members to attend the MHLS Annual Membership Meeting; and
- Reminded trustees of the September 30 deadline for their Sexual Harassment Prevention Training documentation to be submitted.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Carla Taylor moved, and Peter Carey seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the July 2025 meeting (Doc. 3.A.). **The motion carried unanimously.**

Minutes approved

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Stuart Auchincloss provided an overview of the financial position of the organization, noting that all state aid needed for MHLS operations has now arrived. Treasurer Auchincloss moved, and Charles Kutcher seconded a motion to receive the July (Doc. 4.A) and August (Doc. 4.B) financial reports. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Financial Report received

5. REPORT ON PAYMENT OF BILLS

Barbara Swanson reported that she reviewed the warrant for July and found them acceptable. Carla Taylor reported that she reviewed the warrant for August and found them acceptable. Carla Taylor moved, and Barbara Swanson seconded a motion to receive the July and August warrants. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Warrants received

Audit report received.

6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- In addition to her written report, Executive Director Aldrich provided detailed report on the successful outcome of the recent push to ensure funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services is evident in both houses' appropriations bill and noted that the outcome of

Federal budget update

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the federal budget process could have a significant impact on MHLS funding depending on the impact of the federal budget on New York State.

- Barbara Swanson moved, and Peter Carey seconded the approval of personnel action for the meeting (Doc. 6.A). **The motion passed unanimously.**
- Stuart Auchincloss moved, and Peter Carey seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Director to proceed with signing a new contract with the existing delivery services vendor, Valley Courier. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Personnel action approved

Delivery Services Contract Approved

7. DIRECTOR'S ASSOCIATION LIAISON REPORT

- Carol Fortier, Director of the Beekman Library reported on the September Directors Association Meeting; noted that the new mobile app is working very well and thanked Laurie Shedrick, MHLS Assistant Director and Technology Operations Manager for her and her team's work to roll out that new product to member libraries this year; thanked MHLS for their work to ensure member library web sites are compliant with recent changes to the Americans with Disabilities Act; and shared her library's experience with the MHLS Road Trip, which has been very good, thanking Laura Crisci, MHLS Library Sustainability Coordinator for the program's seamless rollout.

Report from the Directors Association Liaison

8. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- The Board unanimously approved the Finance Committee's proposed mid-year budget adjustments (Doc. 8.B).
- The Board unanimously approved the Finance Committee's proposed amendments to the MHLS Fiscal Policies to clarify ACH transfers for payments and to reflect the new relationship with New York Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities System (NYCLASS) (Doc. 8.C)

Mid-Year Budget Adjustments approved.

Fiscal Policies updated

9. INCENTIVES COMMITTEE

- The Board unanimously approved the Incentives Committee's recommendation to approve the recommended award amount for the Mid-Hudson Library System's third floor HVAC replacement project and to authorized Board President Barry Ramage to sign the assurances form for the application for state aid.
- The Board unanimously approved the Incentive Committee's recommendation to accept the Committee's recommended award amounts for 2025 applications to the State Aid for Library Construction as presented (Doc. 9.C).

MHLS State Aid for Library Construction application approved

Member Library Award Recommendations for the State Aid for Library Construction Program approved

10. GOVERNMENT & COMMUNITY RELATIONS GROUP

Chair Jill Leinung provided a report on the working group's proposal to begin work to create an endowment fund for MHLS. Leinung noted the importance of avoiding competition with member libraries for donor funds. Charles Kutcher moved, and Mark Williams seconded, a motion to endorse the direction the working group is headed in, as described in Doc. 10.A, with the understanding that this working group will consistently report to the MHLS Finance Committee and MHLS Board. **The motion passed unanimously.**

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

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13. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Carla Taylor moved, and Barbara Swanson seconded a motion to approve the 2026 MHLS Board meeting dates as presented, with a note that snow dates will be provided at a later date. The motion passed unanimously. The 2026 schedule is as follows: *2026 MHLS Board Meeting Dates set*
- i. Saturday, January 17 (meeting + lunch and orientation in the MHLS Auditorium)
 - ii. Wednesday, March 18 (meeting in the MHLS Auditorium)
 - iii. Friday, May 22 (meeting at a member library location TBD)
 - iv. Tuesday, July 14 (meeting + luncheon with MHLS staff in the MHLS Auditorium)
 - v. Thursday, September 10 (meeting at a member library location TBD)
 - vi. Friday, October 23 (Annual Membership Meeting, hopefully at The Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library & Museum)
 - vii. Thursday, December 10 (meeting in the MHLS Auditorium)
- B. President Barry Ramage announced that Vice President Rajene Hardeman has announced her plans to move out of state. This will require Vice President Hardeman to resign from the MHLS board and therefore, withdraw her bid to run as President of the MHLS Board for 2026. This will require the Nominations & Elections Committee to reconvene to discuss a new slate to present to the board; a special board meeting to be held immediately following the MHLS Annual Membership Meeting on Friday, October 24th to approve the slate to allow the election process to remain on schedule. Stuart Auchincloss moved, and Barbara Swanson seconded, a motion to approve this process and set a special board meeting date of Friday, October 24th at 12:30pm at The Wallace Center of the FDR Presidential Library and Museum in Hyde Park, NY. **The motion passed unanimously.** *Special Meeting of the MHLS Board scheduled for October 24, 2025*

14. ORIENTATION

Executive Director Aldrich provided an introduction to the National Climate Action Strategy for Libraries and noted how this is influencing the work of MHLS with its member libraries. *National Climate Action Strategy for Libraries introduction provided*

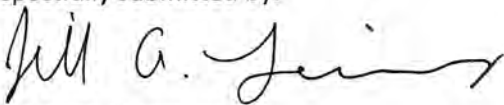
15. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

16. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52am.

Respectfully submitted by:



Jill Leinung, Secretary

Approved on [DATE] by the MHLS Board of Trustees