Keeseville Free Library
1721 Front Street
Keeseville, NY 12944

Phone: (518) 834-9054
Email: keesevillefreelibrary3@gmail.com
KeesevilleFreeLibrary.com

Robyn Pray
Library Director

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Doug Garrand
President

Kelly Frady
Vice President

Romeyn Prescott
Secretary

Ted Sill
Treasurer

Nancy Garrand

Kathie LaBombard

Judy McCusker

Erik Zimmerman

September 9th, 2026

A meeting of The Board of Trustees of the Keeseville Free Library was held at the library on this date at 5:00 P. M. and was presided over by Doug Garrand with Romeyn Prescott as Secretary.

Voting members in attendance:
Kelly Frady
Doug Garrand
Nancy Garrand
Kathie LaBombard
Judy McCusker
Romeyn Prescott
Erik Zimmerman

Excused:
Ted Sill
Sheila Vanags – Assistant Director

Also present:
Robyn Pray – Library Director
Jenn Grundherr – Arts Festival Director

Call to Order – 5:05pm

Minutes Review and Corrections

- Prior minutes were corrected for spelling and names
- Edits made live; motion to accept amended minutes passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report and Annual Giving

Sheila and Ted absent; financials circulated in advance.

- Spending at 54% YTD; fiscal year Jan 1–Dec 30.
- Annual giving to date: $9,943.21; TD Bank Affinity annual check: $3,253 (variable).
- One-time PayPal Giving check: $1,000; plan to enroll in PayPal Giving and Amazon nonprofit programs to expand donations.
- Certificate of Deposit (CD)
    - CD maturing on the 12th; best 12-month rate at 3.68%.
    - Agreed to roll over full amount including $800.26 gains; compound and continue 12-month term.

Arts Festival Financials and Operations

- Revenue presented as 30% of art sales (commission model aligned with prior ADK Action approach); 70% paid to artists.
- Sales tax due on the 21st; Square fees (~3%) about $1,100.
- Net revenue figure discussed with confusion; strong overall results; grant pending and would increase net if awarded.
- Decision to absorb transaction fees to facilitate high-value purchases and ease of payment.
- In-kind support estimated $5,400 - 5,500$ (venue cleaning, porta potty, decorations, flowers).
- Survey: 52 responses; main draw was Plein Air Show and Sale followed by community activities. Marketing strongest via word of mouth/social media; posters/signs to be reviewed for timing/durability.
- Venue navigation generally easy; noted steep hill and limited signage for activities across the bridge behind the library. Anticipated bridge work may affect access; shuttle/logistics being explored; maps provided; recommendation for more visible signage (e.g., sandwich boards).
- Conclusion: Festival widely viewed as successful; donor support and art sales exceeded prior years; positive sentiment ("proud," "excited," "inspired," "happy").
- **Ideas for Next Year's Festival**
    - Suggestions: "quick draw" competition, "nocturne prize" (night painting), more Saturday evening events, food trucks on both sides of the bridge, more live music, caricature artist (e.g., Joe Ferris), expanded kids' activities.
    - Consider adding an MC to introduce performers (e.g., Wyatt Hackett) and officially start events; first year with programs inside the arts building noted.
    - A list of suggestions will be compiled for planning.
- **Volunteer and Committee Engagement**
    - High interest from survey respondents to volunteer or join the planning committee.
    - An informational kickoff event will be held in October for prospective committee members and those seeking behind-the-scenes insight.

Board Vacancy and Candidate Introduction

- Annie Preston introduced as a potential board member; CEFLS confirmed bylaws permit members outside local boundaries; local bylaws do not prohibit.
- Annie's background: social worker in Plattsburgh; community organizing; prior board service; strong interest in libraries.
- Board agreed to vote on the new member as first order of business at the next meeting; Annie will consider joining.

Programs and Operations (Director's Report)

- Butterfly Festival: celebrated wing installations and pollinator gardens; ~45 attendees; feedback to relocate downtown and focus on caterpillars/butterflies for engagement; earlier butterfly talk was full and engaging; pollinator plants all given away.
- Ventriloquist performance: well-attended, mostly adults; $300 for an hour; potential inclusion in next year's arts festival.
- Arts Festival participation: included local tattoo shop demonstration on piercings, inks, sterilization; well received; aim to include more local artisans and diverse art forms.
- Memory Café (Ausable Forks): second and fourth Wednesdays; third session completed; caregiver support with musician in final half hour; collaboration with Ausable Forks; counts as library program.
- Children's Cooking Club: planning after-school program starting October at Ausable Forks Library; exploring bus logistics for Keeseville kids; considering second local session (e.g., Knights of Columbus or other kitchens); seeking low/no-cost venues.
- Bathroom resources: ongoing with lower usage; "Great Giveback" donations drive planned Oct–Dec via newsletter and wish list.
- Grants: $4,000 awarded from Lake Placid Education Foundation (via Adirondack Community Foundation) for art/music programs (grant by Karen Diagostino; original ask $13,000). Awaiting response from Fred on arts festival grant (expected end of August; still pending).
- Food donations: daily cart filled with local produce; volume tracking difficult due to high inflow.
- Large Food Donation from North Country Camps
    - ~600 pounds of frozen, fresh, and refrigerated items received (dressings, butter, cereal, eggs, bacon, hamburger patties).
    - Distributed to home kitchen, local restaurants, and patrons with food insecurity; completed same day to prevent spoilage.
- Libby usage (August): checkouts up from 96 to 104; magazine checkouts from 17 to 33; yearly users from 40 to 46. Kanopy users rose from 1 (2025) to 4.
- Library Groups and Communications
    - Dungeons & Dragons group meets weekly; respectful; new leader after prior one moved for medical school.
    - Communications minimal; mostly TD Bank and PayPal transactions.
- Website Analytics
    - Website connected to Google Analytics; initial metrics show homepage most visited, followed by "events and programs" and "services."

    - Top keywords: “Keeseville library hours,” “Keeseville free library.”
    - Data will inform layout optimization and support annual report/grants; plan to supplement with Facebook numbers.
- Friends of the Library
    - Active fundraising/support group; bookshop has raised ~$2,000; bake sale scheduled Saturday, September 12, 2026.
    - Source of new volunteers: six in training; “SOS list” for emergency coverage now at 17.
- High School Capstone Program
    - Participating in Ausable Valley’s pilot; a student (interested in library studies/writing) will intern; initial transport issues due to school/library hours mismatch; aim for Saturdays Oct 2026–Jun 2027.

Ongoing Business

- AED stickers placed; training to be scheduled for board and potentially wider community; multiple sessions planned; non-certified course offered via American Red Cross framework to avoid $35 fee; AED portion ~20 minutes, expandable to pre/post procedures.
    - Offer training to Friends members/volunteers.
- Doug to send revised mission statement;
- Reviewed old business (MOU, bathroom supplies, food distribution site).
- Annual letter sent; Doug will start approaching businesses next week.
- Discussion of meeting minutes format

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 P. M. The next meeting is scheduled for October 14th, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Romeyn Prescott

Romeyn Prescott - Secretary