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

August 12th, 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
Kathie LaBombard
Judy McCusker
Romeyn Prescott
Ted Sill
Erik Zimmerman

Excused:
Nancy Garrand

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

Call to Order – 5:00pm

Call to Order and Mission Statement Discussion

- Doug opened the meeting with a quote about the role of a great library in its community.
- The group reviewed the library's mission statement and agreed to add language about "programming that enriches the lives of our community patrons." Doug will work on the new wording for review at the next meeting.

Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- A correction was made to clarify that the painting contest was part of the "Centennial Celebration Art Contest."
- The minutes were approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report

- Most of the month's income came from the 100th birthday celebration, which netted almost $1,200.
- Seven months into the budget year, income is at 81% of the collection goal, with about $20,000 remaining to be collected.
- Spending is at 49% of the budget.
- The financial report was approved.

Director's Report

- **Arts Festival and Activities:**
  - The "Clay with Molly" event resulted in 45 art pieces and 55-60 visitors to her shop.
  - The Reiko activity produced 52 fired pieces.
- **Community Outreach and Funding:**
  - A meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 14, 2026, with the new principal of Alsip Forks Elementary School to discuss library services.
  - The library received a $2,000 donation from the Dozer Days Festival for the summer reading program.
  - North Country Amberts donated $500.
  - All Stable Forks was awarded a grant for a memory cafe, which will be led by Sue Ann. The first session had five participants.
- **Library Operations and Programs:**
  - Book checkout numbers are high, partly due to the summer reading program. Some inaccuracies in tracking persist due to technical and user errors.
  - The summer reading program had 124 participants who read over 5,000 books.
  - Robyn coordinated bringing meals from Osceola Forks Elementary School to Keysville for families in need.
- **Future Plans:**
  - The library hopes to become a designated physical site for the summer food distribution program next year.
- A motion was made and seconded by Erik to accept the director's report, which passed unanimously.

Food Distribution Program Logistics

- The program distributes perishable items (frozen foods, fresh produce, milk) weekly, creating a logistical challenge due to the library's lack of refrigerator and freezer space.
- Current capacity supports only 3-4 people, but one participant with two children received multiple bags, highlighting the space required per person.
- Nancy Saharski offered to buy a taller fridge, but space remains a concern. Using large coolers was suggested as a temporary solution.
- Robyn will create a formal plan for becoming a distribution site, outlining needs and logistics for the next season.

Arts Festival Report

- **Success and Financials:** Jenn reported the arts festival was a "pretty big success" with a seamless transition from ADK Action and increased attendance. Preliminary financials show art sales of $54,600 (a $13,000 increase) and

sponsor donations up by over $10,000. The preliminary net revenue is approximately $36,500, which could rise to $46,000 if a pending grant is approved, compared to last year's $24,000 net.

- **Logistics and Artist Management:** The sales split is 70% for artists and 30% for the organization. Some logistical issues arose with artists selling works outside the event. It was suggested that next year's invitation clarify that sales must occur at the event.
- **Artist Capacity and Venue:** The group discussed capping artist participation at forty for the Keysville venue due to space and housing constraints. Despite a strong waitlist, the consensus was to maintain the cap.
- **Feedback and Future:** A post-festival survey was distributed to gather feedback, with results to be presented at the September meeting. Jenn agreed to lead the event again next year, with the intent to distribute the significant workload among more volunteers.

Friends of the Library and Fundraising

- **Bookstore and Sales:** The bookstore is performing well, having sold over a thousand books and raised over a thousand dollars. A back-to-school sale is planned for Saturday, September 12. After reimbursements, the Friends have approximately $2,000.
- **Brewery Event:** A recent brewery event raised approximately $1,200 from beer sales, a 50/50 raffle, and donations. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Friends needs to be circulated to the board for clarity.
- **Committee Participation:** Chris Allen has agreed to join the long-term planning committee.

Community Support and Operations

- **Bathroom Supplies and Hygiene Drive:** An ongoing issue with patrons taking excessive bathroom supplies was discussed. Robyn has spoken to one patron to set expectations. The group decided to post a polite sign ("Take what you need, please leave some for others") and explore grants to sustain the supply. The "Great Giveback" hygiene drive is planned for October.
- **Farm Stand:** A significant financial shortage at the farm stand was reported, believed to be due to large-scale theft.
- **AED and Safety:** An AED has been acquired and is functional. Training for staff and volunteers will be offered by Doug. A visible, accessible location for the device needs to be determined, along with appropriate signage.
- **Annual Letter:** The annual letter is in progress and will include a QR code linking to a hidden webpage with more details and a donation link. Library hours will be added to printed materials.

Grant Updates

- The Adirondack Lake Center for the Arts grant application is still under review.
- There are no updates on the New York Forward Grant.
- Engineers have been seen surveying in town, suggesting streetscaping planning may have started.

Civic Center Space and Chairlift Funding

- According to state grant rules, library funding for a new $70,000 chairlift would be proportional to its occupied space (25%), limiting grant coverage to 25% of the cost. The board is exploring if more funding is possible.
- Amy Brilla has pledged $100,000 to renew and furnish the library space.

- The board is considering a proposal for the library to manage the upstairs civic center space, allowing community events and potentially moving the Friends' book sale there. Awaiting a board decision on the management and funding approach.

Board and Committee Business

- **VP Election:** Kelly Frady was nominated and elected as Vice President.
- **Recognition:** The board expressed gratitude to former Vice President Lorna for over 11 years of service, presenting her with a card, gift, and cookies.
- **Board Membership:** A candidate from Lewis (Annie) is interested in joining the board. Erik will consult with Stephen and CEFLS to confirm her eligibility regarding residency rules, as the bylaws may not specify constraints.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:08. The next meeting is scheduled for August 9th, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Romeyn Prescott

Romeyn Prescott - Secretary