

The regular monthly meeting of the Schenectady County Public Library Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, October 23, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Swanker Boardroom at the Karen B. Johnson Central Library.

PRESENT: Madelyn Thorne, President; Brenda Schworm, Vice-President; Steve McCutcheon, Treasurer; Timothy Burke; Justin Chaires; Jude McQueen; Carmel Patrick

ABSENT AND EXCUSED: David Fronk; Julie McDonnell; Bernice Rivera; Tina Chericoni Versaci

STAFF: Charity Thorne, Executive Director; Beth DeMidio, Director of Operations; Devon Hedges, Assistant Director; Janice Martin, Board Clerk

GUESTS: Diane Wilkinson, President, Friends of the Library; Michelle Ostrelich, Schenectady County Legislature, Vice-Chair Education & Libraries; Cathy Alloway, Library Strategies (via zoom)

Madelyn Thorne called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

No speakers this evening.

CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Justin Chaires, seconded by Steven McCutcheon. Motion passed.

A video clip was shown of a class visit to the Rotterdam Branch Library by Jefferson Elementary students.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

A strategic planning update was given by Cathy Alloway from Library Strategies via zoom.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Community Survey is live on the SCPL website. Spread the word.

The library has received positive reviews on the new sitting area near the entrance at KBJ.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Trustees reviewed the written report by Executive Director Charity Thorne.

Highlights include:

- Picture Book Browsing Bins
- Mont Pleasant Fall Festival
- Family Place Library

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

- The Fall book sale netted over \$19,500
- An Evening with Elizabeth Strout: A free event sponsored by the Friends of the Library, on November 12, 2025, at Proctor's GE Theatre. Tickets can be reserved through Proctor's. Thank you to Doug Bixler for help in promoting this event.
- Membership has increased from 362 members in April to the current 950 members.
- Black Friday, November 28, 2025: 50% off at both bookstores.
- November/December newsletters are available at all libraries.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

No report.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

No report.

POLICY COMMITTEE

No. report.

NEW BUSINESS

Steven McCutcheon announced that October is Dyslexia Awareness Month. Libraries in Vermont are involved in creating awareness of Dyslexia and asked if SCPL would consider this endeavor as well.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m. on a motion by Justin Chaires, seconded by Timothy Burke.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 20, 2025