

Cornwall Public Library
June 11, 2025
Regular Meeting Agenda

- I. Roll
- II. Approval of Agenda
- III. Approval of the Minutes: May 14, 2025
- IV. Financial Review:
 - A. Approval of Warrant #11
- V. Public Remarks
- VI. Communications/Donations
- VII. Director's Report – *See Google Docs*
- VIII. Committee Reports
 - A. Finance Committee: Motion: The Cornwall Public Library Board of Trustees resolves to transition to a Hybrid Supported Library effective January 1, 2026.
 - B. Policy Committee: Motion to approve Board of Trustees Governance
 - C. Building, Grounds & Sustainability Committee
 - D. Friends: Last meeting was March 24. Next Meeting June 16.
 - E. Personnel Committee: Introduction of new Employee Handbook.
Motion: Approve the hiring of Kristin Schneider, a provisional appointment to Public Relations Specialist at FT, reduced hours (no more than 29 hours per week).
 - F. Strategic Planning Committee
- IX. Unfinished Business
- X. New Business
- XI. Public Remarks
- XII. Adjournment

Reorganizational Board Meeting Wednesday, July 9, 2025, 6:30 PM
Next Regular Board Meeting Wednesday, July 9, 2025, 7 PM

Cornwall Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting

May 14, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

Meeting was *called to order* by Michelle Query at 7:00 p.m.

I. **Roll:** Trustees Present: Meghann Chyla (President), Michelle Query (Vice President), Amy Stermer, Lucinda Poindexter, Gregory Rocco, Christopher DeFilippi

Also: Charlotte Dunaief (Director), Cathy Squillini (Minutes), Allison Barry (Treasurer)

Excused: Julia Dahl

Public: Brandt Knapp, Fran Kramer

The Board welcomed the Public to the meeting.

II. **Approval of Agenda:** *A motion to approve* the agenda was made by Christopher DeFilippi, seconded by Amy Stermer, and unanimously approved.

III. **Approval of the Minutes:** *A motion to approve* minutes of the April 9, 2025 Meeting was made by Amy Stermer, seconded by Christopher DeFilippi. Discussion: Question: Under New Business, do we need to indicate who made the statement re: IMLS Executive Order? No, since it is stated in II. Approval of Agenda for the meeting. *A vote to approve* the Minutes of the April 9, 2025 meeting was unanimous.

IV. **Financial Review:** *A motion to approve* Warrant #10 in the amount of \$136,880.72 was made by Lucinda Poindexter and seconded by Christopher DeFilippi. Discussion: Payment of \$400 was made to Board of Elections for the budget vote; there are three payrolls in April. *A vote to approve* Warrant #10 in the amount of \$136,880.72 was unanimous.

V. **Public Remarks:** None

VI. **Communications and Donations:**

CPL received a thank-you note from AARP Tax-Aide; several items, including a photo of the Eagle Scout who built the brochure display for the CPL vestibule, were printed in The Cornwall Local.

A motion to accept a donation of \$500 from Warren and Mary Mumford in honor of their son was made by Michelle Query, seconded by Lucinda Poindexter, and unanimously approved.

VII. **Director's Report:** *See Google Docs for full report.*

The Director highlighted the following items for the Board:

- The Timothy Mumford Memorial Poetry Competition award ceremony was held on April 27.
- Circulation has been auditing books to ensure that all books returned have been checked in.
- Two sessions of DIY De-Cluttering were held for a total of 77 people.
- Dig in the Dirt was successful on April 26 with 29 participants.

The Director thanked the Community for coming out to vote for the library budget for the upcoming year.

VIII. **Committee Reports:**

Finance Committee: The Committee is pleased that the budget passed.

Policy: The Committee did not meet.

Buildings, Grounds, and Sustainability: The Committee is focusing on obtaining State funds through Senator Skoufis's office for refurbishing the parking lot; 2 bids were received. The Director and Committee are working with William Alexander of Senator Skoufis's office to secure funds.

Friends: The annual meeting was postponed due to unexpected illness.

Personnel: A *motion to approve* the resignation of Kiara Kennedy, effective June 9, 2025, was made by Michelle Query, seconded by Lucinda Poindexter. Discussion: The Board wished Ms. Kennedy well in her new position. The Board asked about a plan for filling the open position.

The Director has posted the position on RCLS and Indeed. There was one interview, and three more are scheduled.

The following question was raised: Do we need more hours in the PR position? Twenty-nine hours requires a Civil Service exam; 20 hours does not require the exam. Currently there is no Civil Service list for this position. Someone may be hired provisionally for 29 hours until the exam is posted and then s/he must pass the exam in order to be considered for a permanent position.

Question: Could the position use two people? Have student internships been considered? Perhaps the position could work by hiring two people to cover the work since the role has been expanded due to the increase in programming and the need for social media postings.

The Director stated she will contact the Civil Service office to discuss the options. A *vote to approve* the resignation of Kiara Kennedy was unanimous.

Strategic Planning Committee: The Committee is gathering input for the process of planning. Surveys will be available at Riverfest and the Fourth of July. So far, returns are slow; the Committee was hoping for greater response during the budget vote.

Question: Could Brenda Goldfarb include the link for the survey in her email blast? Yes.

The Director also reminded the Board that QR codes are posted throughout the Library and hard copies of the survey are available at the Circulation Desk.

Meghann Chyla made a *motion to enter* Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue, seconded by Christopher DeFilippi at 7:25 pm. The motion was *unanimously approved*.

A *motion to end* Executive Session was made by Gregory Rocco, seconded by Christopher DeFilippi, and *unanimously approved* at 7:42 pm.

IX. **Unfinished Business:** None

X.. **New Business:** None

XI. **Public Remarks:** None

XII **Adjournment:** A *motion to adjourn* was made by Michelle Query, seconded by Amy Stermer, and *unanimously approved*. The Regular Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 11, at 7:00 p.m.

Cornwall Public Library

Warrant #11

May 2025

DATE	NAME	AMOUNT
1001 General Fund (7848) - 3 - 2		
05/07/2025	Benninger Landscaping LTD	-1,050.00
05/07/2025	Interstate Waste Services	-183.04
05/07/2025	Aflac	-93.70
05/13/2025	Cornwall Public Library Payroll	-29,456.24
05/13/2025	Nationwide NYS Deffered	-600.00
05/14/2025	NYS Health Insurance Pending Acct	-9,053.21
05/14/2025	Verizon- Wireless	-15.08
05/14/2025	NET 2 PHONE	-193.84
05/15/2025	Orange County NY Arts Council	-25.00
05/20/2025	Verizon	-119.00
05/27/2025	Village of Cornwall on Hudson	-191.31
05/27/2025	Continental Screen Printing, Inc.	-380.00
05/27/2025	Cornwall Public Library Payroll	-27,798.96
05/27/2025	Nationwide NYS Deffered	-600.00
05/27/2025	NYS & Local Retirement	-1,119.43
05/31/2025	Toshiba	-786.69
05/31/2025	Toshiba	-84.00
05/31/2025	Elan Financial Services	-3,294.39
05/31/2025	ULINE	-146.01
05/31/2025	Smithsonian	-44.99
05/31/2025	Dawn Thornton	-30.34
05/31/2025	Nugent & Haeussler, PC	-9,000.00
05/31/2025	Susan Vrana	-150.00
05/31/2025	MDS HVAC-R Inc	-500.00
05/31/2025	The Atlantic	-54.95
05/31/2025	Auric Information Packaging	-1,345.00
05/31/2025	Cengage Learning Inc/Gale	-353.18
05/31/2025	Advantage Archives, LLC	-958.64
05/31/2025	hoopla	-1,375.98
05/31/2025	Willow Lane Education	-234.90
05/31/2025	Broad Reach Books	-216.55
05/31/2025	Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corp	-1,661.21
05/31/2025	Magazine Circle, LLC	-18.00
05/31/2025	Brodart Co	-310.67
05/31/2025	Mother Jones	-14.95
05/31/2025	Blackstone Publishing	-392.38
05/31/2025	P&P Quick Copy Center	-609.00
05/31/2025	Brodart Co- JUV	-932.68
05/31/2025	RCLS	-930.36
05/31/2025	Brodart Co.- McN	-610.75
05/31/2025	Ingram Library Services	-1,038.30
05/31/2025	Newburgh Free Library	-10.99
05/31/2025	Charlotte Dunaief	-54.25
05/31/2025	Overdrive Inc	-2,337.10

Cornwall Public Library

Warrant #11

May 2025

DATE	NAME	AMOUNT
05/31/2025	Playaway Products	-295.95
05/31/2025	The Pioneer Woman Magazine	-19.97
05/31/2025	Staples	-600.53
05/31/2025	ALA- Member Services	-446.00
05/31/2025	Lisa Sinclair	-49.28
05/31/2025	Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corp	-41.87
Total for 1001 General Fund (7848) - 3 - 2		\$ -99,828.67

Cornwall Public Library

Budget vs. Actuals: Budget_FY25_P&L - FY25 P&L

July 1, 2024 - May 30, 2025

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
Revenue				
4002 Local Public Funds	1,477,559.13	1,477,558.00	1.13	100.00 %
4082 Income				
4082.1 Copies	6,233.43	2,500.00	3,733.43	249.34 %
4082.2 Donation	2,134.39	1,000.00	1,134.39	213.44 %
4082.7 Faxes	882.25	1,500.00	-617.75	58.82 %
Total 4082 Income	9,250.07	5,000.00	4,250.07	185.00 %
4401 Interest Income	5,016.82	500.00	4,516.82	1,003.36 %
4706 Friends of the Cornwall Public Library	9,500.11	14,000.00	-4,499.89	67.86 %
4840 RCLS- LLSA	15,368.00	4,810.00	10,558.00	319.50 %
Total Revenue	\$1,516,694.13	\$1,501,868.00	\$14,826.13	100.99 %
GROSS PROFIT	\$1,516,694.13	\$1,501,868.00	\$14,826.13	100.99 %
Expenditures				
6010 Retirement	70,985.00	76,041.00	-5,056.00	93.35 %
6020 6020 NYS Disability Benenfits	2,063.78	2,500.00	-436.22	82.55 %
6030.8 FICA/Medicare Expense	6,936.90	69,093.00	-62,156.10	10.04 %
6060 Worker's Compensation	4,919.00	9,200.00	-4,281.00	53.47 %
6090 Health Insurance	82,508.31	127,103.00	-44,594.69	64.91 %
6141 Professional Library	185,682.30	178,822.00	6,860.30	103.84 %
6142 Clerical Salary	431,152.66	580,456.00	-149,303.34	74.28 %
6143 Treasurer Salary	5,630.63	6,365.00	-734.37	88.46 %
6144 Custodial Salary	19,898.83	30,971.00	-11,072.17	64.25 %
7410 Books	44,414.09	63,779.00	-19,364.91	69.64 %
7411 Movie License	373.08	700.00	-326.92	53.30 %
7412 Video/Music/Books on Tape	29,882.34	40,990.00	-11,107.66	72.90 %
7413 Serials/Reference	10,915.51	16,100.00	-5,184.49	67.80 %
7430 Supplies	17,831.49	34,500.00	-16,668.51	51.69 %
7431 Telephone	3,602.17	4,700.00	-1,097.83	76.64 %
7432 Square Processing Fees	76.22	50.00	26.22	152.44 %
7433 Postage and Shipping	4,014.00	3,000.00	1,014.00	133.80 %
7434 Printing	2,837.07	7,500.00	-4,662.93	37.83 %
7435 7435- Travel/Conference	1,825.90	4,036.00	-2,210.10	45.24 %
7437 Professional Fees	24,850.68	47,050.00	-22,199.32	52.82 %
7438 Dues	2,603.98	1,500.00	1,103.98	173.60 %
7450 Utilities/Fuel	28,015.21	41,000.00	-12,984.79	68.33 %
7451 Custodial Supplies	2,532.56	2,500.00	32.56	101.30 %
7452 Repairs to Building	29,051.61	23,000.00	6,051.61	126.31 %
7454 Building Insurance	13,756.86	13,500.00	256.86	101.90 %
7455 RCLS	60,927.09	77,472.00	-16,544.91	78.64 %
7469 Service Contracts	22,694.82	39,440.00	-16,745.18	57.54 %
Total Expenditures	\$1,109,982.09	\$1,501,368.00	\$ -391,385.91	73.93 %
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$406,712.04	\$500.00	\$406,212.04	81,342.41 %

Cornwall Public Library

Budget vs. Actuals: Budget_FY25_P&L - FY25 P&L

July 1, 2024 - May 30, 2025

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
NET REVENUE	\$406,712.04	\$500.00	\$406,212.04	81,342.41 %

May 2025: Director's Report

Personnel

- Continued Weekly meetings with each Department Head
- Began planning Staff Training Day for June 28, 2025

Budget/Financial

- Spoke with William Alexander, of Senator Skoufis' office, regarding a water remediation grant that would include removal of the parking lot's old surface, resurfacing, and stripping the lot.
- Renewed our SAM.gov registration so that we can receive grants

Programming

- Cornwall Community Leadership forum: 42
- May/June artist's reception: 26
- Mystery Book Group: 4
- Midday Matinee: 27
- New Program "Patron Pix" moved to a weekday
- Opera Club: 18
- Montessori School Tour: 32 Children, 3 Adults

Building and Grounds

- Had the Handyman here to fix a leaking downspout, which was filled with debris from before installing gutter guards
- Received two quotes for water remediation of the parking lot, removal & resurfacing, and stripping the lot.
- Finished emptying the storage unit and brought all remaining boxes to the boiler room. Martha (a volunteer) has been shredding every Thursday; Luann and I will be taking shredding to Shred Day at the town hall in June.

Monthly Statistics 2025 (Previous month in parentheses)

Registered Borrowers: 6,828 (6,775); **Direct Access/Circulation:** 9,792 (10,391)

ILL Borrows: 1,704 (1,704) **ILL Loans:** 1,265 (1,403)

Item Count: 72,214 (72,099); **Wi-Fi:** 6,473 (5,946)

Libby (Overdrive) Checkouts: 4,011 (3,762) **Unique Users:** 811 (782)

Number of Visits to the Library: 5,065 (5,382)

Meetings Attended: 5/5 Lucinda, chair of personnel; 5/8 Strategic Planning committee; 5/12 System Services; 5/13 Dept. Heads; 5/14 Director's Assoc. ;5/14 Board Meeting; 5/22 Staff Meeting; 5/27 Dept. Heads

Webinar(s) Attended: 5/8-Beyond the Pizza Party; Maintaining Staff Morale; 5/12 RCLS Road Trip 2025; 5/14 Rooting Out Dysfunction and Creating Successful Teams; 5/20 Disability Etiquette and Effective Communications for Libraries: Part 1; 5/22 Sustainable from the Start; Developing a Construction RFP; 5/28 Building Stronger Workplaces; 5/29 AI Policies for Libraries

Circulation Monthly Stats for May

Calls for Programming	23
Calls regarding Circulation	96
New Library cards	44
Assist on Special Projects	11
Assist on Computers	20
Assist on Printing	70
Faxing	23
Register for Adult Programming	13
Register for Children's Programming	3
Assist with Reference	71
Assist with Children's	36
Miscellaneous duties	0
Notary	0
Pull List and Book Drop	175
Organizing Carts	85
Auditing Carts	11
Shelf Reading	0

Ellen Winchell
Service Desk Manager
06/02/2025

Adult Programming & Outreach Projects: May 2025

Library Sponsored Programs:

Date:	Program:	Attendance
5/2/25	Let's Make Cork Trivets	16
5/5-5/19/25	Creative Writer's Group (5/5=8; 5/12=10; 5/19=12)	30
5/8/25	Out of Africa--The Beat Goes on	48
5/9/25	Homeschool Family Meet-up	13

5/19	Spring Into Poetry	12
5/21/25	Out and About Book Club	7
5/21/25	Great Decisions	2
	Total	166

Room Use only:

Date:	Program:	Attendance
5/4/25	Cornwall Club DeLectura (Spanish language book club)	4
5/13/25	MSLC: Diabetes Prevention Outreach	6
5/20/25	Town of Cornwall Friendly Visitor Program	2
	Total	12

Donations to Friends of Cornwall Library:

Date:	Program:	Donation Amount
5/2/25	Let's Make Cork Trivets	\$27.00
5/8/25	Out of Africa--The Beat Goes On	\$23.00
	May Total	\$ 50.00//YTD ttl \$943.50

Youth Services -End of Month Report – May 2025

Program name Date Children Teen Adults Vols Total

ChatterBooks	5/7	9		1		10
P.J. Story Time	5/1,5/15	3,3		2,3		11
Chess Time	5/3	4		3	1	8
Book Break	5/6	5				5
Readzza, rdzza	5/29		3			3
Baby & Me	5/2, 5/9, 5/16	13,18,15		13,18,18		95
Circle Time	5/7, 5/14	4, 5		1		10
Montessori tour	5/19	32		3		36
Dog Tales	5/5, 5/19	14,12			3,3	32
Family Story	5/4, 5/13,5/20	23,17,18		25,17,18		118
Market Story T	5/21, 5/28	7,13		7,15		42
Lee Rd tour	5/27	11		5		16
COH art show	5/28	27		22		49
Volunteer inter	5/20, 5/22		15,18			33
CCMS visit	5/30		75			75

<i>T.U.T.</i>	5/9		7			7
TOTALS		253	118	171	7	550

Meetings & Webings: Staff Meeting 5/22-- Liz, Lisa, Susan, Aaron
Manager's Meetings: 5/13 -Lisa, Liz, 5/27- Lisa

Webinars: 5/28 Disability, Etiquette & Effective Communication for Libraries- Part 1-Lisa ,
5/13 RCLS Road Trip Training -Lisa

Questions @ the Desk

Reference 169, Circulation 85, Phone 21, Tech 43, iPads lent 31, Programs 23, Book Clubs 13,
SRP 27, Misc. 31

Reflections

A very busy May with Volunteer Interviews and Summer Reading calendar finessing and school visits, on top of regular programming and school tours. More in June!

Respectfully submitted, 5/30/25 ekf

Adult Services May 2025 Report (Submitted by Dawn S. Thornton)

REFERENCE:

Reference Questions: 77 (129); **1-on-1 Tech Help:** 12 (23); **Quick Tech Assists:** 81 (74);
Circulation: 20 (27); **Directional:** 13 (12);
Reader's Advisory: 1 (1); **Faxing:** 1 (0); **ILL/SEAL:** 7 (6);
Pull List: 1012 (1108); **Printing:** 53 (89); **Phone:** 46(61); **Virtual Ref:** (10) (1); **Reservations:** 0 (0);
Items Lent: 6 (9); **Guest Pass:** 52 (37); **Misc:** 21; **Laptops:** 1

Notary Service: 48 (57)

Database Stats: **Ancestry:** 19 (56)

Hoopla: **Digital Audiobook:** 343 (332); **Digital BingePass:** 2 (9); **Digital Comics:** 25 (22);
Digital Ebook: 176 (162); **Digital Movie:** 36 (42); **Digital Music:** 8 (14); **Digital Television:** 18 (24)

NYTimes Digital Subscription Stats: **In-House Library usage sessions:** 42 (60); **page views:** 969 (119); **articles read:** 66 (92); **Offsite Code redemptions:** 240 (256); **usage sessions:** 1102 (1323); **page views:** 6308 (6050); **articles read:** 1610 (1947)

PC Usage:

Adults': 277 (331); Children's: 5 (7); Laptops: 1 (8)

**PROGRAMS Book Chat and Chocolate: 17 (14); Members' Choice Book Group: 3(5);
Mystery Book Club: 4 (7); Out and About: 7 (7); Creative Writers: 22 (39);
Midday Matinee: 27 (21); Tuesday Night Movie: 15, (6); Canasta: 50 (38)
Pieces of Me Documentary: 2; Teen Tech Tutors: 6 (5); Homebound: 1 (3) pickup, 1 (7)
deliveries; Opera Club: 18 (18); Great Decisions: 2 (3); Cornwall Clean-up Crew: 42 (18)|
Cornwall Homeschooling Family Meet: 13 (8); Patron Pix: 9 (3); Let's Make Cork Trivets: 16
May the Fourth Be With You: Star Wars Movie: 1; May/June Art Reception: 26;
Out of Africa: The Beat Goes On: 38; MSLC: Diabetes Prevention: 6; Faux Stained Glass 2nd
Date: 8; Town of Cornwall Friendly Visitor Program: 2; Spring into Poetry: 12**

The planned adult program, Baby of the Fourth, garnered low registration, which resulted in cancellation. The program will be passed to YA, hopefully to be done in the fall. May the Fourth Be with You was also not received very well by the adult population.

Adult Summer Reading will launch on June 29th. The program will include: registration via ReadSquared, registration bags, book reviews, and Bingo cards(need to be registered for). Adult summer programming includes: take-home art kits, a July art exhibit with results of the kits, an August afternoon poetry slam, and finally, an August summer edition faux stained glass program. These programs will require registration.

Staff will be trained on how to use ReadSquared.



Governance for the Board of Trustees

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- 10. Appendix B. Reconsideration of Policy Form**

Section 1

Cornwall Public Library's History

Cornwall Public Library's History

The First Library in Cornwall owed its existence to some forward-looking citizens, who in November 1869, formed the Cornwall Circulating Library. One of the group, a wealthy philanthropist, Erard A. Matthiessen, became the chief stockholder and later owner of an imposing three-story structure erected

in the village square. Although the building housed several establishments, including an assembly on the top floor, its name, Library Hall, signified the principal occupant, the library.

The editor of an early town newspaper, a woman of education and culture, used every opportunity to extol the library, especially as an inducement for vacationists who invaded Cornwall in the summer. The community was a popular resort in the post-Civil War years, filled with spacious hotels and boarding houses.

Despite its name, “Circulating Library,” the facility seems to have functioned more as a reading room where several daily newspapers and current periodicals could be found. Supported by an annual subscription, ranging from one to five dollars, and occasional fundraisers, it also relied on book contributions from the patrons. The room was open daily, especially in the summer when, in rainy weather, it would be filled with guests from the nearby hotels.



Matthiessen Hall, once known as Library Hall, in the Village of Cornwall-on-Hudson

Although the library could count on permanent quarters, its survival was threatened by a decline in the resort business and by a lack of patronage from the year-round population. In 1889, the local newspaper announced the sale of books and other property of the Cornwall Circulating Library; all that remained were small collections of books in the town’s public schools.

The next step came in 1893 when the two largest school districts applied for a charter from the State Board of Regents, which had been empowered to charter free public libraries supported by a school or municipal tax base. Within a short time, Cornwall obtained its permanent charter, and School District 5 (Canterbury) set up a library in a small school, which in 1904 moved to a new building. At the same time, School District 4 (Cornwall-on-Hudson), whose school was close to Library Hall, was able to occupy the former reading room. Each library had a board of trustees that met periodically to oversee the operations and approve the selection of new books, exercising censorship over “unsuitable” material. Under a series of librarians, as yet untrained, the collections of books increased both in numbers and scope; card catalogs were instituted; and a small juvenile section opened. The windows of the library in Cornwall-on-Hudson overlooked the village square, which made it a favorite after-school haunt of teenagers, who came ostensibly to do their homework. In 1921, the residents of Mountainville, a rural section of Cornwall, organized a third town library. They found space in a store, stocked the shelves with

books from their homes, took turns as librarians, and sponsored benefits to defray the costs. Later, they moved into an empty railroad station.

By the 1930s, the deteriorating condition of Library Hall (now called Matthiessen Hall) made the need for new library quarters. The son of the late Mr. Matthiessen offered to build a new library in Cornwall-on-Hudson, a handsome colonial-style building which opened in 1935 and is still in use. The three libraries operated independently until the centralization of the Cornwall Schools in 1954. A new library charter had to be obtained. The libraries of Districts 4 and 5 joined to become the Cornwall Public Library with one board of trustees and a single budget. There were three branches: the Library in Cornwall-on-Hudson; rooms in the Town Hall, into which the District 5 library had moved in 1953; and the Mountainville Library, which joined the system in 1969.

The history of the last three decades can be summed up in two familiar words: modernization and expansion. Meeting the public demand for up-to-date services led to the hiring of a professional director and additional staff, the purchase of computers and other modern equipment, and the expansion of programs, including those for children. Those who remember the once-spacious interior of the Cornwall-on-Hudson library were astounded at the then crowded conditions—additional shelving and equipment left scarcely room to turn around; and the problem was worse at the Town Hall branch.



The Library in the Village of Cornwall-on-Hudson was built in 1934.



Over the years, several options have been presented to the taxpayer, ranging from the acquisition of existing buildings to the erection of a new library. In 1989, a proposition for a \$3.2 million building was defeated, as was a scaled-down version for \$2.65 million in 1990. Closing the Mountainville branch in 1990 subsequently reduced operating costs. In 1997, the Trustees presented voters with an entirely new plan to build a 10,000 square foot library for \$2.2 million. Designed by architect Peter R. Hoffman of Marlboro, NY, the proposal for the new library offered the consolidation of services, collections, and

staff in one new location at Riverlight Park. Active campaigning by members of the Friends of the Library and other interested citizens achieved the long-needed approval of a new building in December of that year. Construction of the new Cornwall Public Library began in April 1999, with a grand opening slated for later that year or early 2000.

Content by Janet Dempsey (Written in 1999 before the opening of the current library)

Library History – An Update

Today, Cornwall Public Library houses a collection of close to 195,000 items that includes books, eBooks, audiobooks, DVDs, and music CDs. There are over 8,800 registered borrowers, it receives over 151,000 annual visits, and is open 7 days a week. The Library has 8 public computers, 4 children's learning stations, a laptop/iPad lab for training and in-house borrowing, and a children's early literacy mini iPad lab with 10 mini iPads for use by preschoolers through teens. There is a diverse offering of programs for people of all ages and interests that draw more than 8,300 attendees annually. The Library serves as a Community Center for residents of the Cornwall Central School District and beyond, and strives continually to meet the needs and requests of the Greater Cornwall Community.

Section 2

Rules for the Governance of the Board of Trustees

Rules for the Governance of the Board of Trustees

Mission

The Cornwall Public Library connects people, information, and ideas to inspire learning, provoke curiosity, advance knowledge, and strengthen our community. We rely on three great resources – our staff, our collections, and our physical and virtual spaces – to promote an engaged and informed citizenry. The library will uphold and support the Library Bill of Rights.

Introduction

In 1959, the Education Department of the State of New York chartered the Cornwall Public Library (CPL). This Charter of Organization has continued in effect and forms the legal, structural base for the functions of the Board of Trustees and its governance of the Cornwall Public Library. With the Charter, are written Rules for the Government of the Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees (hereinafter designated as the “Board”) of the Cornwall Public Library, a corporation created under a charter granted under Section 253 of the New York State Education Law by the Board of Regents (or Secretary of State) of the State of New York, dated 1959, shall be governed by the laws of New York State, the regulations of the Commissioner of Education, and the following bylaws.

1. Regular meetings shall be held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Cornwall Public Library or at such other time and place as the Board may determine.
2. Special meetings may be held at any time at the call of the President, Vice President, or Secretary, or a call of any two members of the Board, provided that proper notice is given thereof.
3. A quorum at any meeting shall consist of four or more Trustees.
4. The order of Business at all regular meetings of the Board shall be as follows:
 - I. Roll
 - II. Approval of Agenda
 - III. Approval of the Minutes –MM/DD/YYYY
 - IV. Financial Review
 1. Approval of Warrant #n
 - V. Public Remarks
 - VI. Communications/Donations
 - VII. Director’s Report
 - VIII. Committee Reports
 1. Finance Committee
 2. Policy Committee
 3. Building, Grounds & Sustainability Committee
 4. Friends
 5. Personnel Committee
 6. Strategic Planning Committee
 - IX. Unfinished Business
 - X. New Business
 - XI. Adjournment

Robert’s Rules of Order shall govern the parliamentary procedure of the Board.

5. Each Trustee shall have one vote, irrespective of office held.

6. A Trustee must be present at a meeting to have his/her vote counted or meet the provisions of New York State's Open Meetings Law.

7. A majority of the whole Board (including vacancies) is required for any motion to pass.

8. All actions of the Board shall be of the Board as a unit. No Board member shall act on behalf of the Board, on any matter, without prior approval of the Board. No Board member by virtue of his/her office shall exercise any administrative responsibility with respect to the library nor, as an individual, command the services of any library employee.

9. All trustees must comply with continuing education requirements outlined in Section 260-d of New York State Education Law.

10. All trustees must comply with the Sexual Harassment Prevention training requirements in New York State Human Rights Law.

11. Absence from three consecutive meetings shall constitute automatic dismissal from the Board unless the Board defers this dismissal by majority vote. The President shall inform the absent Board Member in writing that he/she is no longer on the Board. If dismissal is deferred by Board action, the President shall inform the absent Board Member in writing the conditions of this deferral.

12. The Board may remove a Trustee for misconduct, incapacity, neglect of duty, or refusal to carry into effect the library's educational purpose as provided in Education Law 226; subdivision 8.

Organization

a. 1. Pursuant to the retirement of the General Code of the State of New York, the Board of Library Trustees from School District Number One shall consist of seven (7) members elected by the qualified voters of the Cornwall Central School District of the Towns of Cornwall, New Windsor and Woodbury, Orange County, New York for a full term of three (3) years. Eligibility for office shall be limited to adults residing within the geographical limits of the library's chartered service area. The Board shall appoint vacancies due to cause, other than expiration of term, until the next Operating Budget Vote and Trustee election. At that time, the appointee and any other interested candidates may run for the remainder of the unexpired term. No member shall serve for more than two consecutive three-year terms.

2. The Trustees shall have full responsibility for the formation of policies governing the operation and program of the library; they shall employ a competent Library Director possessing a Master's Degree in Library Science; and shall secure adequate funds to carry on the Library's program.

3. The Officers of the Board shall be President, Vice President, and Secretary. Their terms of office shall be for one (1) year, coinciding with the Library's Fiscal Year (July 1- June 30). They shall be elected at the first regular meeting in each fiscal year.

4. The duties of all officers shall be by custom and law, and rules of this Board devolved upon such officers in accordance with their titles. The president shall be, ex officio, a member of all committees.

Committees

Standing committees shall be Finance, Policy, Building, Grounds and Sustainability, Friends, Personnel, Strategic Planning. Committees should have no more than three members. The President may appoint committees for other purposes, those committees will be considered discharged upon the completion of the purpose for which it was appointed after the final report is made to the board.

Budget & Public Voting

To maintain and develop services of the CPL, the Board of Trustees will start a review of expenditures, staff and planning for the next fiscal year by January of each year. Working with the Library Director, the Board will prepare a final budget plan in time for adoption at the Board meeting in March.

The budget will be presented to the public with time for public review and voting in April (or as close to April as the Orange County Board of Elections schedule will allow) for approval or rejection. The election of a Trustee for each open position will be made at the same public vote.

As CPL is a School District Public Library, public voting for the proposed budget, election of trustees, or any needed special bond expenses will be carried out in accordance with the voting rules of the Cornwall Central School District.

Library Director and Staff

1. The Board shall appoint a qualified Library Director possessing a Master's Degree in Library Science who shall be the executive and administrative officer of CPL on behalf of the board and serve under its review and direction.
2. The Library Director shall recommend to the Board the appointment and specific duties of other employees and shall be held responsible for the proper direction and supervision of the staff.
3. The Library Director shall also be responsible for:
 - a. The care and maintenance of the Library property;
 - b. Adequate and appropriate selection of materials in keeping with the stated policies of the Board;
 - c. The efficiency of the Library service to the public.
 - d. The Library's financial operation within the limits of the budgeted appropriation;
4. In the case of part-time or temporary workers, the Library Director shall have the interim authority to appoint without prior approval of the Board until its next regular meeting.

Library Staff Responsibilities

The overall responsibilities of the Library Director are defined in the Rules of Government of the Board of Trustees. Delegation of tasks geared toward ongoing library service is at the discretion of the Library Director. The Director will direct the staff to maintain all library services year-round.

In the absence of the Library Director for vacation, illness, or unexpectedly for other reasons, these supervisory responsibilities will fall to the senior full-time qualified librarian working under the review and direction of the Board of Trustees.

Amendments

Amendments to these rules may be proposed at any regular meeting but may become effective only after a favorable vote at a subsequent meeting. Any of the foregoing rules may be temporarily suspended by a unanimous vote of all the Trustees present at any meeting.

Reconsideration of a Policy

Patrons may request that the Board of Trustees of CPL reconsider a policy. Patrons should contact Library Staff for a copy of the request for Reconsideration of a Policy Form. The form should be completed and returned to the Information Desk. The Library Director will then present the form during the New Business section of the next regular meeting.

Section 3

Organization Oath of Office

SAMPLE

MM/DD/YYYY

Organizational Oath of Office

I, _____, do solemnly swear and affirm that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New York; and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Trustee of the Cornwall Public Library according to the best of my ability.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Witness: _____

Date: _____

Section 4

Public Access to Records

Public Access to Records of Cornwall Public Library

The Cornwall Public Library is subject to and uses the New York State Freedom of Information Law for access to records. The current provisions of the Freedom of Information law can be found at <https://opengovernment.ny.gov/freedom-information-law>.

Designation of Records Access Officer

The records access officer is:

Charlotte A. Dunaief, Library Director
Cornwall Public Library, 395 Hudson Street, Cornwall, NY 12518
845-534-8282
cdunaief@rcls.org

Denial of Access and Appeal

The following person(s) or body shall determine appeals regarding the denial of access to records under the Freedom of Information Law:

President of the Board of Trustees
Cornwall Public Library
395 Hudson Street, Cornwall, NY 12518
845-534-8282

Part 8. Open Meetings

The Cornwall Public Library is subject to and uses the New York State Open Meetings Law. The current provisions of the Open Meetings Law can be found at <https://opengovernment.ny.gov/open-meetings-law>.

For more information about the Freedom of Information Law and the Open Meetings Law, visit <https://opengovernment.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/06/your-right-to-know-0522.pdf>

If you are unable to locate information on the website and need advice regarding either FOIL or the OML, feel free to contact: Committee on Open Government, NYS Department of State One Commerce Plaza 99 Washington

Section 5

Friends of Cornwall Public Library

Friends of Cornwall Public Library

The Board of Trustees, the Library Director and the entire library staff respect and recognize with appreciation the active interest and support of the Friends of Cornwall Public Library, which is a separate and distinct organization. CPL Trustees and the Library Director will maintain active communication with the Friends as well as mutual cooperation in many projects.

Room for the Friends Bookstore, run by the Friends, is provided for in the library building. The Board of Directors of Friends of Cornwall Library controls activity and use of the Bookstore, within the overall purview of the Library's Director and Trustees.

APPROVED December 2000

Section 6

Library Bill of Rights

Library Bill of Rights

The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their services.

I. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.

II. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

III. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.

IV. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.

V. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.

VI. Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.

VII. All people, regardless of origin, age, background, or views, possess a right to privacy and confidentiality in their library use. Libraries should advocate for, educate about, and protect people's privacy, safeguarding all library use data, including personally identifiable information.

Adopted June 19, 1939, by the ALA Council; amended October 14, 1944; June 18, 1948; February 2, 1961; June 27, 1967; January 23, 1980; January 29, 2019.

Inclusion of "age" reaffirmed January 23, 1996.

"Library Bill of Rights | Advocacy, Legislation & Issues." *American Library Association*, <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill>. Accessed 10 January 2024.

Approved as policy as of 10/06/09; revised and approved 3/13/24

Section 7

New York State's Public Library Systems

New York State's Public Library Systems: Improving information literacy, educational

achievement, economic development, and quality of life for all New Yorkers

Facts About Public Library Systems

- Serve over 19 million people statewide
- Serve 755 public libraries with over 1,100 outlets
- Operate over 300 neighborhood branches, 11 bookmobiles, and over 100 other community outlets extending services to people in correctional facilities, nursing homes, urban and rural areas
- Facilitate over 15 million interlibrary loan requests annually
- Provide access to e-books, NOVELNY, and other electronic resources
- Provide professional development and training opportunities for library staff and trustees
- Operate multi-county computer networks and automated catalogs of resources
- Connect with the New York State Library, school library systems, reference and research library resources councils, and school, academic, and special libraries for access to specialized resources
- Serve as a liaison to the New York State Library and the New York State Education Department

Three Types of Public Library Systems

Consolidated (3): Chartered as a single entity under a board of trustees (Brooklyn, The New York Public Library, and Queens Borough Public Library).

Federated (4): Created by action of the board or boards of supervisors or legislature of the county or counties involved while member libraries retain their own charters (Buffalo & Erie, Clinton-Essex-Franklin, Monroe, and Onondaga).

Cooperative (16): An association created by agreement of boards of chartered member libraries, which retain their autonomy.

See also [Types of Library Systems](#)

Public Library Systems Provide

- *Free direct access* to resources and services of all system member libraries
- *Support for a central library* that provides extended public hours and a strong research and reference collection
- *Support for the latest technologies* and telecommunication services, including e-books, the New York Online Virtual Electronic Library (NOVELNY,) and other electronic resources
- *Interlibrary loan*, daily delivery, and other resource sharing services
- *Special outreach and literacy services* for persons with challenging conditions and life situations, the institutionalized, underserved, and unserved communities, and people who have difficulty reading,

writing, and speaking English

- *Cooperative grants administration and grant writing assistance* to member libraries ● *Access to free talking books*, braille materials, and playback equipment from the State Library and The New York Public Library
- *Programs that assist local communities* without libraries to obtain library services ● *Staff expertise* in areas such as library law, library budgeting and management, technology, collection development, grants, youth services, outreach, and more
- *Professional development* and training for library staff and trustees



New York State's Public Library Systems

- Brooklyn Public Library -- (718) 230-2403
- Buffalo & Erie County Public Library -- (716) 858-8900
- Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library System -- (716) 484-7135
- Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System -- (518) 563-5190
- Finger Lakes Library System -- (607) 273-4074
- Four County Library System -- (607) 723-8236
- Mid-Hudson Library System -- (845) 471-6060
- Mid York Library System -- (315) 735-8328
- Mohawk Valley Library System -- (518) 355-2010
- Monroe County Library System -- (585) 428-8045
- Nassau Library System -- (516) 292-8920
- The New York Public Library -- (212) 930-0674
- Nioga Library System -- (716) 434-6167

- North Country Library System -- (315) 782-5540
- Onondaga County Public Library -- (315) 435-1900
- Pioneer Library System -- (585) 394-8260
- Queens Borough Public Library -- (718) 990-0700
- Ramapo Catskill Library System -- (845) 243-3747
- Southern Adirondack Library System -- (518) 584-7300
- Southern Tier Library System -- (607) 962-3141
- Suffolk Cooperative Library System -- (631) 286-1600
- Upper Hudson Library System -- (518) 437-9880
- Westchester Library System -- (914) 674-3600

Background Information

In the late 1950s, the State Legislature and Governor authorized the establishment of public library systems in [Education Law](#). Governance and function are established in the [Regulations of the Commissioner of Education](#). Each public library system is governed by a board of trustees.

See also [Types of Library Systems](#)

The State created library systems to expand the resources of all local libraries, enabling them to buy services and share resources cooperatively. Most of the 23 public library systems are supported entirely by State Aid. Systems qualify for aid based on an approved five-year plan of service and annual report. A portion of the State Aid is direct aid for member libraries.

[More information on State Aid programs for libraries and library systems](#)

Public library systems facilitate the sharing of library resources so all New Yorkers have access to information and library services that advance and enhance their lives as workers, citizens, family members, and lifelong learners. Systems provide cooperative programs and services that help local communities take advantage of economies of scale. System staff provide professional expertise that helps local libraries achieve their full potential. For more information on and links to Public Library Systems and public libraries:

- Visit the [New York State Library website](#);
- Check out the ["Find Your Public Library" website](#)
- Call the Division of Library Development at the New York State Library: 518-474-7196
- or contact your [Local Public Library System](#)

For more information on and links to Public Library Systems and public libraries:

<https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/libs/brochurp.htm>

Section 8

Types of Libraries



Types of Library Systems - A Comparison

	Public Library Systems (23)			3R's Systems (9)	School Library Systems (40)
	Consolidated (3)	Federated (4)	Cooperative (16)		
How Established	Chartered as a single entity with one Board of Trustees. All libraries are branches.	Created by action of the board or boards of supervisors of the county or counties involved. Member libraries are autonomous and have their own Boards.	An association created by agreement of the boards of members, chartered libraries which maintain their autonomy.	An association created by a group of non-profit and for-profit institutions providing library services.	By approval of the Commissioner.
Charter	Regents incorporate by charter.	Regents incorporate by charter.	Regents incorporate by charter.	Regents incorporate by charter.	No charter. Functions as unit of a BOCES or Big 5 cities school district.
Standards for Service	Education Department registers and requires a plan of service. Must meet minimum public library standards in order to receive public funds. Must have an approved plan to receive State funds.	Those systems which are libraries as well as library systems are registered and must meet minimum public library standards. Also must have an approved plan in order to receive State funds.	Education Department approves a plan of service. Must have an approved plan to receive any public funds.	Education Department approves a plan of service. Must have an approved plan to receive any public funds.	Must have plan of service and meet Commissioner's Regulations 90.18 & Ed. Law 282, 283, 284.
Public Financial Support	Budget approved by City of New York. Primarily local funds with limited state aid.	Budget approved by county. Some local funds for some of these systems, the balance is state aid.	State aid. Budget approved by Education Department.	Primarily state aid though dues are charged to members and some services have fees. Budget approved by Education Department.	Primarily state aid approved by SED. Some costs may be underwritten or shared by BOCES or Big 5 City School Districts. Budget approved by Education Department.
Governance	Trustees named by City Council.	Parent governmental units appoint the board.	Board members of member libraries elect the system board members.	Members designate member library representatives to elect the board members.	The BOCES or board of the Big 5 City school district is the governing board of the school library system. An advisory council is required.
Membership	No "members"; outlets are branches and run by systemwide policies.	Member libraries are autonomous public and association libraries and join the system by choice. No dues or fees.	Member libraries are autonomous public and association libraries and join the system by choice. No dues or fees.	Academic, hospital, business, law & other special libraries as well as public library systems, school library systems and selected individual public libraries that meet criteria set in law and by the Education Department.	All school districts and nonpublic schools within a BOCES that meet eligibility criteria. All school libraries within a Big 5 City School District.
Area Served	Ranges from a single county to three counties.	Ranges from a single county to three counties.	Ranges from a single county to five counties. Only one county (Ulster) is divided between public library systems.	Ranges from 2 counties to 14 counties. Coterminous with 2 to 4 public library systems.	Coterminous with the BOCES or city school district they were established to serve.
Civil Service	No	Yes, some	No	No	Support staff usually Civil Service. Librarians vary.
Retirement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Have own plan	Yes

Consolidated	Federated	Cooperative
Brooklyn (Kings County); New York (Bronx, New York, Richmond counties); Queens	Buffalo-Erie; Clinton-Essen-Franklin; Monroe; Onondaga	Chautauque-Cattaraugus; Finger Lakes (Cayuga, Cortland, Seneca, Tioga, Tompkins counties); Four County (Broome, Chenango, Delaware, Otsego counties); Mid-Hudson (Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Putnam, Ulster [part] counties); Mid-York (Herkimer, Madison, Oneida counties); Mohawk Valley (Fulton, Montgomery, Schoenectady, Schoharie counties); Nassau; Niagara (Genesee, Niagara, Orleans counties); North Country (Jefferson, Lewis, Oswego, St. Lawrence counties); Pioneer (Livingston, Ontario, Wayne, Wyoming counties); Ramapo Catskill (Orange, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster [part] counties); Southern Adirondack (Hamilton, Saratoga, Warren, Washington counties); Southern Tier (Allegany, Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben, Yates counties); Suffolk; Upper Hudson (Albany, Rensselaer counties); Westchester

For more information, see: <https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/libs/libtypes.htm>

Appendix A.

Cornwall Library Board of Trustees Roster

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Term Begins Term Ends

MEGHANN CHYLA, President, July 2022 June 2025

14 Buttermilk Drive
New Windsor, NY 12553
Cell: (845) 612-8300
Work: (845) 534-8009
E-mail: CPLTrustee3@gmail.com
Committees: Personnel (Chair), Policy

MICHELLE QUERY Vice President July 2023 June 2026

6 Frost Lane
Cornwall, NY 12518
Cell: (773) 706-4923
E-mail: CPLTrustee2A@gmail.com
Committees: Strategic Planning (Chair), Building, Grounds & Sustainability, Personnel

JULIA DAHL July 2023 June 2026

2 Duncan Lane
Cornwall on Hudson, NY 12520
Cell: (917) 287-5166
E-mail: CPLTrustee7@gmail.com
Committees: Personnel, Strategic Planning, Friends Liaison

(Treasurer)

Alloson Barry
11 Bridle Path Lane
Salisbury Mills, NY 12577

(Director)

Charlotte A Dunaief
20 Cornwall Avenue
Cornwall on Hudson, NY 12520

Home:
Cell:(845)-302-7035
mail:CPLTreasurer1@gmail.com

Cell: (845) 642-6967
Work: (845) 534-8282 E-
E-mail: cdunaief@rcls.org -----

Appendix B. Reconsideration of Policy Form

Reconsideration of Policy

For current copies of this document, visit www.cornwallpubliclibrary.org, or ask at 395 Hudson Street, Cornwall, NY 12518.

To initiate a Re-Evaluation of a Library Policy:

1. You must be a resident of the Cornwall Central School District to request that a CPL policy be reconsidered.
2. You must be a Cardholder at the Cornwall Public Library.

If you meet these requirements, please fill out the form and email it to cdunaief@rcls.org, or mail it to: the CPL Director, 395 Hudson Street, Cornwall, NY 12518

Reconsideration of Policy Form

NAME:	
CPL card Number:	
Address:	
Policy you want reconsidered:	
Basis of Concern:	

Comments you would like the Library to consider:	
Date of submission:	
Signature:	

A. Finance Motion: This will reduce our RCLS IT services support costs for the Calendar year of 2026 to \$25,748. We will begin to use Frontline for our Public-Facing Computers and Laptops by January 1, 2026, and then in 2027 we will move our staff IT over to Frontline as well.

B. Grace Riario of RCLS has been checking all RCLS Libraries' posted policies. She emailed me that our Board Governance Policy was missing things and needed to be updated. Amy checked our current one against the sample policy in the Handbook for Library Trustees and made changes, highlighted, to comply with it. This needs Board Approval, and then posting to our website.

E. Personnel: I've hired Kristin Schneider to the open P/R Specialist position. She is starting on June 9th. There is no current Orange County Civil Service list for the position, so I've hired her provisionally. She must take the P/R Specialist Exam when it is given, and be reachable on it. She has been pre-approved by Civil Service, so has all the needed requirements to take the exam.