

**Saranac Lake Free Library
Board Meeting Minutes
January 28th, 2026
5:15 p.m., Cantwell Room**

Present: Mackenzie Davison, Jake Widrick, Kenzie Marine, Dave Staszak, Tracey Henderson, Lorraine Fielder, Aurora Pfaff, Stephanie Sears, Carolyn Koestner, Mikayla Ploof, Libby Clark, Andy Kelly, Jessica Kemp

Absent: Jodi Rossi

Meeting called to order at 5:15 pm

- Approval of minutes from the November board meeting
 - Dave made the motion, Tracey seconded
 - All were in favor, with one abstention
- Period of public expression
 - The board received a compliment on the new carpet
- Guest presentation from Kevin Brady of Long Run Wealth
 - Kevin presented about Long Run's available resources and role
 - Core account currently valued at roughly \$1 million
 - 70% stocks, 30% bonds
 - Provides a meaningful amount of growth, while also providing stability
 - As markets shift, interest rates change, and currency fluctuates, Long Run modifies weights of the sectors
 - Kevin provided an overview of some of the specific stocks in the library's portfolio
 - Dividends from the portfolio are about \$40,000
 - Kevin explained how there is cash available for projects, as needed, while still making 3% interest
 - Long Run charges half of a percent and they attempt to make that up in terms of our earnings
 - Dave asked if there are any stocks to be concerned about in terms of socio-political/ethical concerns (e.g., sectors/companies to avoid)
 - Kevin indicated that it is something that can be monitored for our portfolio
 - If the board wishes to revise the portfolio/investment strategy, we can do so
 - Kevin will share some literature on this topic with the board
 - New IRA is getting up and running
 - Long Run Wealth is happy to schedule a time to come to the library to meet one-on-one with staff members who may have questions
- The board went around the room to make introductions
- Director's report from Jake

- Reminded the board about annual trustee training/continuing education, 2 hours annually, as well as the annual sexual harassment training
- Library updates since November:
 - Closure for one week between Christmas and the start of 2026 for construction (ceiling tile replacement, spray foam installation)
 - Exterior front lighting and children's room lighting updates complete
 - We continue to have some difficulties with heating specific areas; we will receive a proposal from Core Climate Systems for long-term fix
 - Programs:
 - Fun programming planned for Winter Carnival week
 - New alternative Friday night programming (Magic/D&D mashup)
 - New partnership with Franklin County Soil and Water activities during Spring Break
 - Hosting online and in-person events with the Adirondack Innovation Initiative for remote workers. In-person event includes pitch from Jake about what the library offers, as well as Jim Griebisch Kolleyer film
 - The board gave Jake feedback about the planned event, which is scheduled for 2 p.m.
 - Emma's French conversation group has been successful
 - Staff:
 - Emma has been accepted into NYLA's six-month Developing Leaders program
- Committee Reports:
 - No meetings have taken place since the last meeting, so no reports were needed
 - Mack asked the board to consider the Service committee's future/needs
 - Mack asked board members to consider joining committees that are in need, specifically Buildings & Grounds, Finance, Personnel, and Governance
- Old Business
 - None
- New Business
 - Discussed the updated purchasing policy
 - Andy moved to approve, Aurora seconded
 - All voted in favor
 - Discussed and approved the proposed meeting schedule for 2026
 - Discussion on the proposed tax levy increase (May 2026 vote)
 - Jessica moved to go forward with a 5% levy increase, Andy seconded
 - All voted in favor
 - New board members have Google Drive access
 - Jake introduced discussion on Strategic Plan Initiatives progress
 - The board will review Jake's handout on mission and vision statements
 - Jake will bring materials to the March board meeting to further advance discussion

- Brief discussion on inclement weather closures. Decision was made to default to following the school district's closures and a new policy will be brought and voted on at the March meeting
- Adjournment
 - Meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.