ANDES PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
SEPTEMBER 9, 2026

Present: Karen Bornarth, Susan Cole, Nancy Darling, Lisa Eckley, Suzanne Gladstone, Dennison Joyce, Diane Lockspeiser, Thomas Navin; Director, Carol Fontaine; Treasurer, Maggie Reinmann

Meeting was called to order at the Library by President Susan Cole at 3:01 p.m.
Susan asked for a vote to approve minutes of 7/8/2026. Tom made a motion and Suzanne seconded. **Motion to approve the minutes of 7/8/2026 passed. (See attached)**

Susan welcomed the new members of the board, Lisa Eckley and Dennison Joyce.

Director's Report:

Circulation —**Most books circulating in-house and transit are fiction. More nonfiction books are requested for transit than in-house.** Libby— 4CLS is working on establishing reciprocal borrowing arrangements with three other library systems: Southern Tier, Finger Lakes, and Ontario, Wayne Wyoming and Livingston. This will be for Libby only. Promotional material and instructions will be made available.

Carol attended two 4cls meetings on July 2 and August 6, and a staff meeting on September 8. The staff meeting included a discussion on improving storage in the closet behind the desk with shelving.

AI Bots had 499 hits in the last 30 days; average time spent, 2 min. 44 sec.; average number of pages visited per session, 2; top pages, home page, resources, events.

Community - Monday Mahjongg is well attended, with up to nine players participating. Teens are not coming in. Carol reached out to Renee Goodheart for ideas and contacts for adult programming. There are three computer desks upstairs that patrons could use; If upstairs space is fairly open, there are possibilities for activities such as Sound Healing, Singing Bowls, Pilates Mat, etc. There is a workshop area for kids, which could also could be used for adult crafts.

Diane mentioned the Garden Club is looking for a place to meet, and Susan said they may be able to use the upstairs space, depending on when the space is available, and asked Diane to follow up with the dates and time needed. Many thanks to Diane for purchasing and installing the upstairs masonite flooring.

In reference to the potential use of the APL by the Garden Club as a meeting place, Tom suggested that (in exchange) we might want to solicit members of the garden club to identify and label plants that are in our Pollinator and Edible gardens on the side of the building. With labels, this would further the idea of these gardens as teaching gardens for the community.

Carol will attend a webinar, Transforming Teen Services, on November 12. Transportation for teens would need to be worked out; there is now a bus service for the CROP program, and Dennison mentioned that perhaps it could also include the teens.

Comments and Suggestions for Teen Services:
Dennison - Possible grants
Diane - CROP meets at school
Suzanne - Possibly teens could come with CROP students
Karen - Find the attraction for teens

Hot Spot: Susan asked about the Hot Spot. Carol said it is not quite ready. They bill one month ahead, and the fee for October is paid. There is a good response on Facebook. Susan asked what is the holdup? Carol replied that it is complicated.

Programs: The weeding of YA books is continuing, and the Classics have been moved downstairs.

Webster's brought the machine, but work on the parking lot has not yet started.

Summer Reading Program was a huge success, with 57 children attending six sessions, and 17 adults attended the two specifically for adults.

Roshan Houshmand offered two painting workshops.

Cornell University-sponsored Powerhouse will be at the ACS parking lot on Tuesday, 9/22, and students will attend workshops. Adults are also welcome.

After-school CROP sessions will resume in October, weekly on Tuesdays.

Willa Bassen has offered a free musical performance for APL sometime in October. Carol showed a short video of her performing. Our harvest event to thank our donors will be Saturday, 10/17, from 2-4. Light fall refreshments will be served. Karen suggested that the event should be promoted on social media immediately.

Susan asked Carol to update the volunteer list of contacts and add Jeff Ditchek's name and information.

Nancy made a motion to approve the Director's Report and Karen seconded. **Motion to approve the Director's Report passed. (See Attached)**

Treasurer's Report:

Donations from the Garden Club's Garden Tour came to $2084, as of 8/31/26. It is substantially less than last year's amount because Derek Curl donated a percentage of the proceeds from his Soireeé last year, and the event was not held this year. Derek donated $2000 this year to cover our landscaping needs and the cost of Corin's services.

We have $30,000 in Savings.

The Town has signed the voucher for $2150 for the gutter replacement. The records show monies both in and out.

Tom asked Maggie how the donated funds are recorded in the records, specifically, the $2000 donation which Derek Curl made early in the season with his gardener Corin Basilion, and upon which we depended for the gardening work undertaken this year.

Maggie replied, everything is recorded in the general fund; we are not required to have a capital account; and there is no money "squirreled away." The parking lot grant was deposited in the capital account.

Budget for 2027: There is an increase of $3,412. Susan said Town salaries and utilities increased by 4.04%; insurance is up 17%. Last year's budget was $60,000; 2027 Budget is $63,412.

Diane made a motion to approve the 2027 budget, Tom seconded. **Motion passed to approve the 2027 budget. (See Attached)**

Nancy made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Tom seconded. **Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report passed. (See Attached)**

Old Business:

Gutters installed 7/28/26 — had to return 8/3 to correct the back gutter so the doors would open.

Garden tour was very successful! Thank you to all who made this possible. QR code worked very well.

Stream remediation complete and blueberry/hostas have been replanted.

APL float was fantastic and well received. Got many positive comments. We did receive a plaque for most creative ATV.

Zeffy — Thank you, Karen, for setting up the APL account for nonprofits with Zeffy. Karen will forward information to Maggie. Fundraising letters will include a slip with the Zeffy QR code, in case donors wish to use it rather than send a check.

Board members are needed to assemble the letters, return envelopes and slips, and stamp them with the nonprofit stamps. No stamps on the return envelopes. Deck is unsafe and cannot be used. Carol will look into a grant to repair the deck for next year.

New Business:

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Susan called for an Executive Session. Karen made a motion and Suzanne seconded. **Motion to call for an Executive Session passed.**

Executive Session was called to order at 4:17 p.m., to discuss a public safety and HIPAA matter.

Nancy made a motion to end the Executive Session and Tom seconded. **Motion to end the Executive Session passed.**
Executive Session ended at 4:21 p.m.

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Carol spoke with Steve Bachman for advice on handling this issue. She was told to file an incident report. Only board members will have access to the report and it will be locked up.

Thank you event will be October 17, 2-4 p.m. Light fall refreshments will be served.

Susan asked Tom to report on Corin/Sophia status. Tom prepared a very detailed report, “Garden Work Update,” and presented this information to the board members. **(See Attached Garden Work Update.)**

Halloween — Lisa suggested having an event for the kids who will be trick-or-treating on Saturday, 10/31. This would be just during the two hours from 10-12 that the library is open, and would promote reading. Painting small pumpkins was one possible activity, and Carol will come in to assist.

Suggestions to attract teens to the library — Dennison suggested board games for older kids and contacting Grace Bacon for other ideas.

Karen stated that the total number of students at ACS is only about 70 total. Possibly organize a field trip for kids with interest.

Susan asked for a committee to work on next year's float for Community Day. Will be determined at a future meeting.

Possible chess club for grades 6-8. CROP goes up to 8.

Tom made a motion to adjourn and Suzanne seconded. **Meeting was adjourned at 4:33.**
Next meeting **THURSDAY,** November 12, 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Darling
Recording Secretary