

# MHLS Directors Association | Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 9, 2025 | Zoom

| Columbia County |               |           | Dutchess County |                     |             | Greene County |              |           | Putnam County |               |            | Ulster County |                        |                 |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|---------------|---------------|------------|---------------|------------------------|-----------------|
|                 | Chatham       | Bachrach  | X               | Amenia              | Herow       | X             | Athens       | Benjamin  |               | Brewster      | Loprinzo   | X             | Esopus                 | Chance          |
|                 | Claverack     | Schoep    |                 | Beacon              | Murphy      |               | Cairo        | Tatavitto | X             | Carmel        | Martens    | X             | Highland               | Dempsey         |
|                 | Germantown    | Place     | X               | Beekman             | Fortier     | X             | Catskill     | Leary     | X             | Cold Spring   | Reinhardt  | X             | Hurley                 | Powell          |
| X               | Hillsdale     | Gaskell   | X               | Clinton             | Bancroft    | X             | Coxsackie    | Benson    | X             | Garrison      | Farabaugh  | X             | Kingston               | Menard          |
| X               | Hudson        | Chameides |                 | Dover               | Smith       |               | Greenville   | Flach     | X             | Kent          | Perolli    | X             | Marlboro               | Jankovitz       |
| X               | Kinderhook    | Pavloff   | X               | East Fishkill       | Salierno    | X             | Haines Falls | Elmo-Emel | X             | Mahopac       | Capozzella | X             | Milton                 | Fonfa           |
|                 | Livingston    | Stork     |                 | Fishkill            | Spann       |               | Hunter       | Johnson   | X             | Patterson     | Harrison   | X             | New Paltz              | Middleton       |
| X               | New Lebanon   | Hoffman   | X               | Hyde Park           | Palmer      |               | Windham      | Begley    | X             | Putnam Valley | Chaudhri   | X             | Olive                  | McHugh          |
|                 | North Chatham | Wert      | X               | LaGrange            | De Bellis   |               |              |           |               |               |            | X             | Phoenicia              | Potter          |
|                 | Philmont      | Whittaker | X               | Millbrook           | Tsahalis    |               |              |           |               |               |            |               | Pine Hill              | Vella           |
|                 | Valatie       | Buono     |                 | NorthEast-Millerton | Leo-Jameson |               |              |           |               |               |            | X             | Plattekill             | Lansperly       |
|                 |               |           | X               | Pawling             | Fisher      |               |              |           |               |               |            | X             | Rosendale              | Scott-Childress |
|                 |               |           | X               | Pine Plains         | Campbell    |               |              |           |               |               |            | X             | Saugerties             | Russell         |
|                 |               |           | X               | Pleasant Valley     | Pulice      |               |              |           |               |               |            | X             | Stone Ridge            | Esposito        |
|                 |               |           |                 | Poughkeepsie        | Lawrence    |               |              |           |               |               |            | X             | Ulster                 | O'Meara         |
|                 |               |           |                 | Red Hook            | Geller      |               |              |           |               |               |            |               | West Hurley            | Keene           |
|                 |               |           | X               | Rhinebeck           | Savolainen  |               |              |           |               |               |            |               | Woodstock              | Gocker          |
|                 |               |           |                 | Rhinecliff          | Bartlett    |               |              |           |               |               |            |               |                        |                 |
|                 |               |           |                 | Staatsburg          | Rothman     |               |              |           |               |               |            |               |                        |                 |
|                 |               |           |                 | Stanford            | Cerul       |               |              |           |               |               |            |               |                        |                 |
|                 |               |           |                 |                     |             |               |              |           |               |               |            |               |                        |                 |
|                 |               |           | X               | Tivoli              | Farley      |               |              |           |               |               |            | X             | Rebekkah Smith Aldrich |                 |
|                 |               |           | X               | Wappingers          | Campbell    |               |              |           |               |               |            | X             | Laurie Shedrick        |                 |
|                 |               |           |                 |                     |             |               |              |           |               |               |            | X             | Laura Crisci           |                 |
|                 |               |           |                 |                     |             |               |              |           |               |               |            |               |                        |                 |

Meeting Called to Order by Chair De Bellis at 10:00 am.

## A. Action Items

- Approval of the June 26, 2025 minutes. **Motion made by Russell, seconded by O'Meara. Passed by unanimous consent.**
- The Resource Sharing Advisory Committee recommends the removal of the text "Manual Charges" from the Resource Sharing Standards "Circulation/Fines & Fees" section as it is in conflict with the actual policy on Manual Charges. **Recommendation from the Resource Sharing Advisory Committee. Recommendation is from a committee, no motions are needed. Recommendation passed by polling vote in Zoom software: 100% yes.**
- The Resource Sharing Advisory Committee recommends that ILS logins be discreet and assigned to a person to ensure only authorized individuals have access. The Committee recommends revising the Managing ILS User Access policy to remove sections F-I referencing group logins and adding the following text: "Logins to the ILS and related platforms shall be discreet and assigned to individual staff only. Group

logins may not be used.” **Recommendation from the Resource Sharing Advisory Committee. Recommendation is from a committee, no motions are needed. Recommendation passed by polling vote in Zoom software: 96% yes, 2% no, 2% abstain.**

B. New/Proposed Business & Information

1. None

C. Reports

1. Advisory Committee Reports

i. System Services Advisory Committee [next meeting 10.23.25]

ii. Resource Sharing Advisory Committee [met 8.12.25]

- Laurie provided updates on the mobile app and the new phone system, reminded everyone that October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, and discussed [techsupport@midhudson.org](mailto:techsupport@midhudson.org) in relation to the staff constraints.

iii. Central Library/Collection Development Advisory Committee [next meeting 10.2.25]

iv. Ad Hoc Overdrive Committee [next meeting November]

v. Road Trip Committee [will meet post Road Trip]

2. MHLS

i. Report to Member Library Directors

- Tom Finnigan, Delivery Operations Manager, retired on September 1st. Chris Herron, the current MHLS Facilities & Assistant Delivery Operations Manager, has been promoted to a new position of Operations Manager, overseeing both delivery operations and MHLS facilities. Rebekkah thanks everyone who sent video messages. Tom enjoyed them.
- A Request for Proposal (RFP) for the MHLS Delivery Service was sent out in July seeking responses on two delivery models; 1) Current delivery routes which run through December 31, 2025, and 2) Revised delivery routes with 20 stops removed. The current vendor submitted the lowest proposal and, as of now, MHLS is not recommending a reduction in stops. The proposal and funding will be approved by the MHLS Board of Trustees at their September 12 meeting.
- New Telephone Notification System is being deployed. Laurie is pushing Innovative to schedule our transition to the cloud server. Expect to transition in the next two weeks. The transition will be seamless for customers except for a new phone number.
- The launch of Patron Mobile is officially complete. Support for the app will be ongoing, of course and MHLS will keep us updated with release notes and updates on features. Regular releases notifications will be sent via Notices list and posted on Knowledgebase. Training on Demand will also be updated.
- Continuing to update the Discover catalog. On August 29, an update added an A-Z sort and improvements to the Bookmarks.
- Laurie extended thanks to everyone for their patience during Gerry’s extended absence.
- ARPA grants for access points will expire in October 2026. There has been a change in the cost, increasing to and estimated \$1,450 each device. Libraries who are interested in continuing the service should be sure to budget accordingly. The devices are available for e-rate funding.
- Equipment orders through MHLS should be in by October 31.
- Rebekkah highlighted an upcoming professional development series which combines both Collection Management & Development and Sustainable Funding: The Collection Life Cycle: Collection Management in Action – Friday, October 3 at 2pm, Budgeting for the Future of Physical & Digital Collections – Friday, October 10 at 10am, and Introduction to

Weeding Your Collection – Tuesday, October 7 at 10am. They will all be recorded and added to Training on Demand.

- Trustee Training workshop Policies 101 originally scheduled for September 30 has been cancelled due to low registration. There is an option posted to Training on Demand.
- Please connect trustees with the Trustee Education offerings.
- There is still time to register for Records Retention and LGS-1 for Libraries on Thursday, September 18 from 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM. Any questions submitted for the speaker will remain anonymous.
- Last April, the regulations for Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) were updated to include specific requirements about how to ensure that web content and mobile applications are accessible to people with disabilities. These requirements apply to state and local governments, including libraries. To help libraries get up to speed with these requirements Sarah McFadden, Senior Librarian in the NYS Library's Digital Services Unit at the NYS Division of Library Development (DLD), will be providing a series of online workshops for member libraries on web accessibility.
- A new law will go into effect April 2026 that requires all entities with a public vote to report their vote and voter data (e.g. voter turnout, vote results) to the State Board of Elections (BOE). Rebekkah is working with the State Library and State BOE to ensure the BOE understands the nature of library votes. She will report back once the process for this has been established.
- Changes to Overdrive Marketplace are coming in mid-September: 1) Inspire Me is a new feature that uses artificial intelligence to suggest creative book "inspirations" that lead readers to matching book recommendations at your library; 2) Users will no longer select an end date for their suspension, they will only "suspend" the request until they are ready to activate it again. The suspensions will press users to be more intentional about receiving held items and also eliminate the 3-day holding pattern as patrons are notified that their suspended hold.
- The outcome of the federal budget in October will shape how the state will respond in crafting the executive budget that comes out in January.
- A Great Giveback link for program information was shared on the Notice list and this information is used to populate a map.
- Halfway through the Road Trip the numbers are impressive: 2600 Maps distributed to the public, 574 participants have visited at least 10 libraries, 457 have visited all the libraries in a single county, 300 have visited at least 35 locations, and more than 82 have completed the challenge, visiting all 70 locations!
- Rebekkah mentioned that several libraries have customized their artifacts for the Road Trip and she would like to exhibit them at the MHLS Annual Meeting in October.
- SEAL 101 Webinar will be held November 12 from 1-2:30 SEAL 101. This webinar will provide basic training on all aspects of the SEAL resource sharing system, managed by Southeastern NY Library Resources Council. This will be tailored to MHLS delivery and version of SEAL.
- Fiscal year 2024/2025 Construction Grant applications are being reviewed by DASNY.
- MHLS is offering a From Application to Approval: A Guide to Library Construction Aid Success webinar on Monday, October 27 from 1:30-2:30PM. It has become clear that it is important that libraries planning to apply need to start thinking about things sooner and there have also been recent changes which will be discussed.
- MHLS has submitted another order for Know Your Rights cards with the state.

- Summer reading reports are due September 12.
  - MHLS will once again partner with the Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill for the Bravery in Literature Awards. This award celebrates authors whose voices have been banned and who are leaders in the fight for intellectual freedom. The 2025 Ceremony will be held on Saturday, October 11th at the Bardavon in Poughkeepsie.
  - The MHLS Annual Membership Meeting is planned for Friday, October 24th at The Wallace Center at the Franklin D Roosevelt Presidential Library in Hyde Park. The keynote speaker will be Sam Helmick, President of the American Library Association. In addition to the election of trustees and amendments to the MHLS Bylaws, vote, and awards, they will have the very first showing of the Mid-Hudson Libraries Tempestry Collection.
- ii. Board Liaison Report [met 7.18.25] – Johanna Reinhardt, Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Library (Cold Spring) [next meeting scheduled for 9.12.25 at the Beekman Library]
- a. Stuart Auchincloss, MHLS Board Treasurer, gave an interesting and engaging treasurer's report.
  - b. MHLS is participating in a community geothermal pilot program in the hopes that they will receive a new HVAC system. Central Hudson will be creating a centralized, community geothermal field that MHLS can be connected to.
  - c. Library Construction grant to install rooftop solar and Rebekkah gave a great detailed presentation of the grant process.
  - d. Lots of time was spent recognizing staff achievements.

**There being no further business, motion to adjourn at 11:00 am was made by Savolainen, seconded by Fortier. Passed by unanimous consent.**

Respectfully submitted by Michele Capozzella, Secretary

Next:

- DA Business Meeting: November 13, 2025 in the MHLS Auditorium, followed by the annual luncheon organized by the SSAC.