



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

May 13, 2025, Agenda

Audit of Vouchers – 6:30 PM.

1. Call to order– 6:45 PM.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Adoption of agenda.
4. Minutes – approval of the April 8, 2025, meeting minutes.
5. Public comments.
6. President's report.
7. Correspondence.
8. Finance Officer's report.
9. Library Director's report.
 - Trustee annual training status.
10. Committee reports.
11. Old business.
 - 2023-2024 State Aid for Library Construction grant.
 - Salem School Service Day project.
 - Library expansion.
 - Library sign.
12. New business.
 - Stand Up #ForOurLibraries (Attachment #1).
 - Washington County Fire Inspection (Attachment #2).
 - Other business.
13. Public comments.
14. Next meeting – June 10, 2025.
15. Adjournment.

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Stand Up #ForOurLibraries

You may have seen in recent news that funding was cut for the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Several patrons have asked what the loss of funding might mean for Bancroft Library—and other libraries within New York State. Therefore, we've pulled together information on this topic from Southern Adirondack Library System, the American Library Association, and an article published in the Greenwich Journal. Please read below if you are interested in learning more.

What happened to federal library funding in Spring 2025?

In March of this year, an executive order was issued that sought to eliminate several federal agencies. The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) was one of those agencies affected by the executive order. IMLS is the main source of federal funding for libraries and museums.

All states receive funding from the IMLS based on their populations. New York State receives nearly 20 million dollars from IMLS, and about 8.1 million of money goes directly to the New York State Library. In turn, the New York State Library helps serve over 7,000 smaller libraries within the state. Bancroft Public Library—and all 34 other libraries within the Southern Adirondack Library System—are just a handful of the libraries that receive portions of IMLS funding.

How can the dismantling of the IMLS affect Bancroft Public Library and other surrounding small and rural libraries here and across the state?

Sarah Murphy, director of the Greenwich Free Library stated in her recent article in the Greenwich Journal:

All the small and rural libraries in our area are significantly enhanced by our participation in the Southern Adirondack Library System (SALS) and the Joint Automation agreement between SALS and the Mohawk Valley Library Association (MVLS). This relationship gives our patrons free access **to hundreds of thousands of items**, [more than each small library] could provide on [its] own...SALS supports our small library in many other ways, including providing support for youth programs, guidance in navigating library funding, chartering, governance, and accountability. ***If you have ever felt that a small local library punches above its weight, it's likely that SALS and the funding it receives has something to do with that.***

Bancroft Public Library is certainly enhanced by the funding that the Southern Adirondack Library System receives from IMLS. Ms. Murphy mentioned in her article the ability for libraries within SALS to exchange materials with each other through interlibrary loan. To have "free access to hundreds of thousands of items" is a huge boon for SALS patrons, especially those that live in small, rural communities.

Also, with IMLS funding, libraries within our network can apply for grants, including construction grants—the latter of which Bancroft has applied for over the past few years. Construction grants have allowed Bancroft to put in new windows (and increase the building's energy efficiency), install ADA accessible ramps into Bancroft and Proudfit Hall, and these grants have the possibility of helping with a potential building expansion project at Bancroft.

Could something be done to reverse the executive order?

It is possible that Congress could override the executive order that cut funding to the IMLS.

But there are other ways that interested people can get the word out about how important our libraries are.

Contact your representative and let them know libraries are important to you.

- NY Patrons in the NY-21 District: Elise Stefanik's Southeast Regional Office Phone: (518) 242-4707
- VT Patrons: Becca Balint, Burlington Office Number: (802) 652-2450

Use the American Library Association's Show Up #ForYourLibraries site to contact your representative and to look for tips to help spread the word on social media about how important libraries are to our communities. <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/show-up-for-our-libraries>

Further reading:

- To learn more about the recent executive order from ALA's website, click here.
- To read Sarah Murphy's full article in the Greenwich Journal, click here.



WASHINGTON COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF CODE ENFORCEMENT

Physical Address: 1153 Burgoyne Ave.
Fort Edward, NY 12828
Phone: (518) 746-2150

Mailing Address: 383 Broadway
Fort Edward, NY 12828

FIRE INSPECTION RECORD

DATE RECEIVED: 4/28/25	PERMIT NO.:
OWNER: Sue Cleary/Supervisor	TELEPHONE:
ADDRESS: 181 main st.	STATE: NY ZIP: 12865
JOB ADDRESS: Proudfit Hall	TOWN/VILLAGE:
CONTRACTOR:	

TYPE OF INSPECTION:

<input type="checkbox"/> Appliance Fire	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure Fire	<input type="checkbox"/> Consultation
<input type="checkbox"/> Chimney Fire	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fire Safety Inspection	<input type="checkbox"/> Re-Inspection
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

☐ COMMENTS

☒ CORRECTIONS

☐ RECOMMENDATIONS

- Boiler inspection - Record may be emailed
- C/O alarms are Required on each floor/level
- Smoke Detectors Needed.

30 days to Remedy

☐ APPROVED

☒ NOT APPROVED

INSPECTOR

DATE

WHITE - OFFICE COPY

YELLOW - OWNER/OCCUPANT COPY