Southeastern New York Library Resources Council
Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting
Conducted via Zoom and in person at Southeastern on January 16, 2025

Board Members Present	Becky Albitz, Andy Ashton, Josephine Bloodgood, Kim Hooper, Grace Riario, Ellen Rubin, Mary Jo Russell, Laurie Shedrick, Gina Trask, Kirsten Carter, Floyd Lattin
Board Members Absent	Beth Zambito, Kristy Lee
Representing Southeastern	Executive Director Tessa Killian Finance Manager Liz Gurdin Systems Manager Zack Spalding Resource Sharing and Cataloging Librarian Kelsey Milner
Call to Order	*President B. Albitz called the meeting to order at 9:31am.*
Approval of the Agenda	B. Albitz requested approval of the meeting agenda. Trustees proposed no amendments.
Approval of Minutes from November 21, 2024	The minutes of the November 21, 2024 meeting were presented to the Board of Trustees. *The minutes were entered into the record as presented.*

New Business
Fiscal Report for November and December 2024
L. Gurdin led a discussion of the fiscal report for November and December 2024, noting the following: • A note on page 16 indicates that the ACRL workshop funds were collected in the prior fiscal year. • Late notices were sent to some members pending their dues payments, not an unusual circumstance for this time in the fiscal year. • The council's finances in general are in line for the mid-point of the fiscal year. • The council will be withdrawing funds from one of its Certificate of Deposit accounts earlier than planned; this withdrawal will incur an early withdrawal penalty, but the interest earned to date still reflects profit for the council. • This early withdrawal of investment funds is a result of the council investing more than initially planned due to attractive rates, in conjunction with the timing of the hospital resources invoice deadline. • L. Shedrick suggested that the council explore the New York Liquid Asset Fund (NYLAF) as a potential, penalty-free, alternative to CDs. Trustees are uncertain if Southeastern is a qualifying organization to participate but staff will research the option. ***The fiscal reports were filed as presented.***
Request a Motion of Recognition for end of the Mortgage

E. Rubin proposed a Motion of Recognition for the completion of the council headquarters' mortgage. Seconded by G. Riario.

T. Killian briefed trustees on the details of the final payment to Rondout Savings Bank for the Southeastern headquarters' mortgage.

The proposed language for the motion of recognition is as follows:

Whereas, Southeastern NY Library Resources Council has successfully fulfilled its financial obligation to Rondout Savings Bank by paying off the ten-year mortgage on the property at 21 South Elting Corners Road, Highland, NY.

Whereas, this accomplishment reflects the collective efforts of the board, staff, supporters, and members who have contributed to the sustainability and growth of our organization,

Whereas, the repayment of this mortgage contributes to financial stability and enhances the capacity of Southeastern to fulfill its mission,

Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Southeastern formally recognizes and celebrates this milestone on January 16, 2025, with deep gratitude to all who have made it possible.

T. Killian reviewed the council's headquarters history, from its prior locations to its efforts to locate a suitable permanent home. This completed mortgage is the second ten-year mortgage on the existing property. B. Albitz noted that Southeastern is only one of two Empire State Library Network (ESLN) councils owning their property.

Trustees inquired if the property continues to meet the council's needs. T. Killian confirmed that yes, proximity to the NYS Thruway, the central location in our service region, and the income the council receives from its tenant all contribute to the property's continuing value to the council.

B. Albitz called the question. By unanimous vote the motion carried.

Approval of the Regional ILL Code

L. Shedrick made a motion to approve the Regional ILL Code as presented. Seconded by G. Riario.

Resource Sharing and Cataloging Librarian K. Milner, on behalf of the Regional Inter-library Loan Committee (RIC), gave a presentation to trustees on the Regional ILL Code review and approval process:
- RIC prepared a draft of an updated code and shared it with regional systems in September. An open comment period was held through October 31st.
- RIC met on November 5th to discuss the comments received and determined that no additional changes needed to be made to the code.
- As this code governs all inter-system borrowing in the Southeastern region, the code was shared with systems for their appropriate governing committees to formally vote on approving it.

- All seven systems in the region have voted to approve the Regional ILL Code; now, RIC asks Southeastern's board to make the final approval.

B. Albitz called the question. By unanimous vote the motion carried.

K. Milner reviewed the next steps in the code rollout plan:
- Communication of the updated code details, via Southeastern's member and SEAL (Southeastern Access to Libraries) newsletters.
- A hybrid SEAL event this summer that will incorporate a review of changes to the code, including more complex aspects such as accessibility guidelines.
- A review of Southeastern's website and training materials to update links and references to the new code.

Trustees congratulated K. Milner on the speedy, efficient code review and approval process and all her diligent work throughout the effort. K. Milner thanked trustees for their attention and support.

Presentation from Zack Spalding on Managing Increased Internet Traffic from AI Bots

Southeastern's Systems Manager Zack Spalding gave a presentation to trustees on his efforts to manage the council's platforms and services in the face of increased internet traffic from AI bots.

Z. Spalding highlighted specific efforts to mitigate AI bot interference from the Empire ADC, KOHA, and Viridian platforms, noting the following:
- Bot traffic concerns are not specifically focused on materials' copyright; rather, as the materials being accessed are available to the public, the concern centers on the increased cost to the council as platform bandwidth usage spikes from the automated activity, expenses well beyond the usual usage these platforms receive.
- In some cases, bots crawl council platforms to exploit finding aids and build information relationships; in other cases, bots utilize council resources for their own computing power.
- While all bot activity is not technically illegal, even in cases when it is, organizations have little recourse to contest the activity from either American or foreign actors; the best one can do is remain agile in fending the efforts off and preventing access to platforms case-by-case.
- Z. Spalding has worked with vendors, such as Viridian, directly to develop protective processes in the wake of recent incidents.
- Z. Spalding is researching software trials aimed at preventing future bot incursions and will explore options in the coming months to see which, if any, is a good fit for the council.

Trustees shared similar bot incursion incidents from their own institutions, some of which have resulted in the need to make resources only available on campus, or the need to ban entire countries from remotely accessing resources—not an ideal scenario for information-focused institutions like libraries.

Trustees thanked Z. Spalding for his ongoing efforts to protect the council from challenges such

as service disruptions and excessive costs resulting from exploited platforms.

Informational Items
Report from the Planning Committee
L. Shedrick, on behalf of the Planning Committee, reported that the committee's recent work has three points of focus: • The Plan of Service 2026-2031 drafting, including setting a timeline and reviewing proposals from prospective consultants. • Member dues planning for 2026, to be finalized by July of this year to provide the required year of notice to members. • Planning for a Board of Trustees retreat, to be combined with the July meeting. The committee is also working to plan this year's annual membership meeting, with venue and food service options under discussion. Mid-Hudson Library Sytem's Rebecca Smith Aldritch will be the annual meeting keynote speaker, on the topic of sustainability.
Advisory Committee Reports: HLSP, EDI
Trustees were provided with meeting minutes from the council Advisory Committees, for their information. M.J. Russell, on behalf of the Hospital Library Services Program Committee (HLSP), shared that the committee is taking a deep dive into e-resources, per specific title requests from hospital staff that are often bundled into costly collections. The committee is rethinking traditional approaches to e-resources, with determinations to be made in time for summer vendor negotiations. Trustees were provided with meeting notes from the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (EDI), which highlight the committee's exploration of an internship program in cooperation with member organizations that have program models to share as a jumping off point.
Director's Report
T. Killian led a discussion of the Director's report, noting the following: • The council is reviewing inquiries and a proposal from prospective consultants for the Plan of Service drafting process. • Southeastern is the partner in an application to the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to support participation in the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP). The project lead is the Queens Public Library (QPL), in partnership with the Northern New York Library Network (NNYLN), who will serve as the project managers. If funded, Southeastern will serve as technical consultant via the council's Digital Services Manager, Jennifer Palmentiero, who will support the NNYLN team with her expertise and experience with technical standards, including evaluating and acquiring microfilm, especially with technical analysis. Furthermore, J. Palmentiero will support NNYLN by contributing to title research and selection, updating bibliographic records, advisory board recruitment, and research for title essays, especially in the Hudson Valley region of New York State. • Regarding the IMLS CrossLink project (for which T. Killian serves as a consultant and relationship-builder per her role as ESLN Chair), work is underway on the proposed ILL

brokering system that aims to bring together disparate resource sharing systems among library types.
• Southeastern's staff held their first meeting with the library sustainability initiative on January 7th.
• Regarding the Digital Navigators of the Hudson Valley program, the fall cohort has concluded, and the spring cohort has started; this cohort is comprised of existing digital navigators, with new trainings paused as project data is reviewed to inform future project strategies as previously detailed to the board.
• T. Killian is working with Empire State Development/ConnectALL on an accessible libraries project for public libraries, to increase their digital accessibility. Data has been collected for more than a year, to assess public library patron needs; the forthcoming report will inform how grant funds are utilized.
• Ulster County Archives, Southeastern's most recent HRVH member, distributed a press release about their digitization work with Southeastern and already have a large online collection in place.

Final Audit Reports for 7/1/23—6/30/24
Trustees were provided with the final reports from RBT CPAs, LLP for the 2023/2024 fiscal year. T. Killian noted that the taxes have been filed, concluding business for fiscal year 2023/2024.

Adjournment
E. Rubin made a motion to adjourn the Board of Trustees meeting at 10:42am. Seconded by G. Trask. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Signed by:

Becky Albitz

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Becky Albitz, President

2/4/2025