

The undersigned members and friends of the Aurora Ledyard Historical Society and the wider Aurora community request that on August 20, 2025, the Aurora Village Board pass a motion to direct the Village Attorney to prepare a motion to the New York State Supreme Court in Cayuga County to name the Village of Aurora as an Interested Party in the court proceeding that is considering approval of the disposition of the non-real estate assets of Wells College.

Specifically, the Village of Aurora has an interest in and would be the most appropriate party to retain in Aurora the archives of Wells College, to be permanently held in the Village of Aurora's Archives. If the motion to admit the Village of Aurora as an Interested Party is granted, then the Village's position can be heard by the court.

BACKGROUND

The court is considering the petition by Wells College for approval of its legacy partner agreement with Hobart and William Smith Colleges, including disposition of the non-real estate assets of Wells. The Village is interested in the materials listed in Exhibit 20 of the petition (Cayuga County Clerk index no. E2025-0580). This Exhibit lists the legacy items which Hobart and William Smith College agreed to accept including: Artifacts of Historic Importance, Library Materials-collections related to Wells history, Archives in Library, and Digital Archives as related to the history of Wells and Aurora. These collections include materials integral to the history of the Village of Aurora, including some Village archives deposited in the course of events in the archives of Wells College. For details concerning how these collections relate to the history of Aurora, please refer to the June 26, 2024, letter to the Trustees of Wells College by Linda S. Schwab, Ph.D., Village Historian. The Aurora Ledyard Historical Society wishes to assume responsibility for the care for these materials and making them available for use and believes the materials should remain in Aurora.

- By August 27, the Village of Aurora must electronically submit a motion to the New York State Supreme Court in Cayuga County requesting that the Court name Village as an Interested Party in the Court proceedings concerning the disposition of the non-real estate assets of Wells College.
- This motion is for consideration when the Court (Judge Thomas Leone) considers the petition by Wells College to approve its legacy partner agreement with Hobart and William Smith Colleges, which includes disposition of the archives. The Court date is September 2, 2025.
- The Village Board meets on Wednesday, August 20. The Board will be asked by the Mayor to direct the Village attorney to prepare and submit this motion to the Court.
- The Aurora Ledyard Historical Society is submitting the above petition to the Village Board in support of this request to submit a motion to the Court for the Village to be named an Interested Party. This petition can be included with the motion to the Court as supporting material **as evidence of widespread concern in the community**.
- Attached are Exhibit 20 of the Wells College petition to the Court and the June 26, 2024, letter from Village Historian Linda Schwab to the Wells trustees, referred to in the petition and included in this request for a signature for ease of reference.